



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-088
Tuesday
9 May 1989

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Garcia Speaks at News Conference in Manaus
PY0805213289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0300 GMT 7 May 89

[Statement by Peruvian President Alan Garcia at a news conference granted to international correspondents by the presidents of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty member countries following their summit meeting in Manaus, Brazil, on 6 May; monitored in progress—recorded]

[Text] ...it is important to note that beyond the objective of this meeting, which deals with the Amazon region, this is another Latin American presidential meeting.

Over the past few years, Latin America has discovered that the meetings of legitimately elected leaders are appropriate forums for fostering integration and for strengthening the idea of a Latin American nationality.

This meeting by the members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty is like the meetings of the Group of Eight or the meeting to be held in barely a month by the Cartagena Accord presidents.

Latin America is striving to find its own nationality and its own identity. These presidential meetings are the most appropriate instruments for consolidating Latin America's historical identity and for recognizing that Latin America is a single unit, without borders.

We are here taking a new step toward concerted political action. We maintain that only through integration will our people be able to achieve their political independence, promote development without contracting new debts, and follow the path of growth and expansion without the adjustments and contractions demanded by the letters of intention.

We are here to show the world that we are exercising our sovereignty over the continent. We feel that the Amazon region is a link among us, because it is a greater unit. Each country does not have its own Amazon region. All of us are part of a greater unit, the Amazon region.

This region should be considered from a collective viewpoint; it calls for collective provisions, development, and planning.

Consequently, since the Amazon region is Latin America's main resource, we have met here to tell the world that we are responsible for its preservation, and that no one should harbor any doubts about our commitment and our responsibility toward the preservation of this resource, which is vital for us and for mankind.

We will continue to preserve this resource as we have been doing it. But, as was said here, we will do it without impositions or intervention from those who refuse to admit that the main source of pollution is misery and poverty.

As [Venezuelan] President Perez put it, we did not meet here to give an answer marked by narrow-minded nationalism or by an emotional reaction in defense of something that we consider to be ours. We met here to improve the quality of our approach.

It will not be the other countries that tell us how to preserve our resources and how to make rational use of them. It is we who will jointly make the decision. It is not each individual country that should do it. If we do not agree on this premise, we will betray the spirit of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

The Amazon region is a unit. If Peru agrees to a request by a foreign power to use herbicides or spike [preceding word in English] to uproot coca plantations, the consequences will be felt in Para [State, Brazil], because the insecticides and the chemicals will be carried by the rivers, thus destroying the environment.

Consequently, Peru cannot make such a decision without previous agreement from the members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

There will also be consequences if other types of decisions—against the tide—are made in Brazil.

We have not met to say merely that Brazil, Peru, or Venezuela will do what they want with the Amazon. We have met to tell the world that we are responsible for its preservation. We are also historically aware of continental nationalism, that this is the only continent entitled to supervise, oversee, and actually preserve the Amazon. Therefore, let the entire world understand that we are not saying, out of narrow-minded nationalism, that each of our countries does what it wants with its Amazon region.

In this meeting, we have agreed to create an Amazon Research Institute that will be established at the intersection of the Brazilian, Venezuelan, and Guyanese borders. This institute, which will be the headquarters of the environmental committee, can and must be the great supervisor of our policies.

As Peruvian president, I can say that we will not accept anything from foreign countries except disinterested cooperation. We will indeed accept the preservation policies that the Latin American countries and the signatories of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty formulate within their integration process. (This) is very important, so the world will understand not only that we are responsible, but also that we are integrationists and willing to defend our and humanity's resources.

In addition, it is important to say something that transcends the Amazon issue. We are discussing basic problems here. There is not a fair distribution of responsibilities in international policy.

The Amazon issue as now presented by the industrialized nations is the best evidence that there is not a fair distribution of responsibilities.

The industrialized nations have developed their industries, burned their forests, and saturated the atmosphere with carbon. Yet we are blamed for cutting down just a few trees. They have millions of consumers of nefarious drug products. Yet we are blamed because there are farmers. They blow up our debts with skyrocketing interest, resell our oil debts, and set the prices for our raw materials. Yet we are blamed for our debt's overall increase.

This unfair distribution of responsibilities is what is basically at stake in this meeting.

We have come to give our resolute, continental, and integrationist support to our great brother, Brazil, regarding the attack it is experiencing.

It would be useless to make theoretical evaluations and rhetoric without an active solidarity that is part of a continental and integrationist perspective. We accept our own—Latin American—supervision because we view and recognize the Amazon as a whole.

We are asking here that they stop blaming, from an ethnocentric and Western perspective, the underdeveloped countries for the evils of humanity, because the roles have been reversed.

As in the ancient world, when the Greeks and the Romans claimed that their culture was the only culture, and that peoples outside their culture were barbarians, biased mass media are now disseminating a view in which we are cutting down trees, deforesting the Amazon, supplying drugs to the world, and blowing up debts without wanting to pay them. This is an unjust and biased concept. We can no longer accept it. Now that we are discussing the Amazon, we must say here that, concerning each one of these issues, there is a basic problem and a wrong interpretation.

Ninety percent of the freon gas that is thinning the ozone layer and an extremely high percentage of carbon dioxide resulting from burning fossil fuels come from the industrialized nations. Twenty percent—one-fifth—of the wealthiest sector of humanity causes 90 percent of the pollution. We are then told that deforestation is responsible for pollution and for the release of carbon, and that we must change our prospects.

As we are told that oxygen is eliminated when trees are cut down, we must also say that our Amazon jungle transforms carbon into oxygen and, thus, retains this carbon there [as heard].

Therefore, the main destroyers and deforesters are those who do not care about replacing their technologies to prevent our forests from becoming saturated with carbon. Our Amazon region is an old forest and thus retains more

carbon than that it produces. Thus, turning around their argument, we should say: Do not deforest our Amazon region any more with burning gas or the nuclear threat.

The world needs a democracy with concepts to allow us to break away from this unfair distribution of responsibilities that always assigns us the worst part. Here we must say that we will look after ourselves. We will accept suggestions from Venezuela, Brazil, Guyana, and from the institute we are now creating to preserve the Amazon region of Peru, which covers 60 percent of our country which, after Brazil, is the country most influenced by the Amazon region.

We will accept their suggestions, but what will the developed countries do? Why blame us? Or why should we blame ourselves? Why don't we start a firm dialogue with them to ask them what they will do and how long they will take to replace the air-conditioning system of their cars? How long will it take to replace the burning of carbon monoxide and dioxide? What are their goals?

We are about to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, which gave us principles of freedom and revolution. Inspired by that same revolution we must tell the countries that will celebrate this 200th anniversary to free us from pollution, from the injustice of the debt, and from the unequal distribution of responsibilities.

This same concept can be applied to the drug problem, which worries so much the U.S. Congress and motivates so many investigations and prerequisites. The industrialized world has millions of consumers, their market demands are responsible for the existence of tens of thousands of coca growers in our countries. The solution is not to blame the underdeveloped countries or to request the eradication of coca crops. The solution is on their side, and they do not want to accept it.

That truth cannot be muffled with sanctions, restrictions, or conditions. That is like trying to cover oneself from the sun with a finger. We must tell the developed countries that they must also change their point of view on the foreign debt subject, which is inevitably connected to deforestation and coca plantations. We must say no to their harmful proposal of buying foreign debt bonds to neutralize our forest resources.

Our large debt impoverishes our economies, leading them to misery and generating perverse activities. Let us solve the real problem. Just as we demand a fair distribution of responsibilities, let us also demand a fair share of the natural assets of humanity. The debt is a basic principle. They fix the interest and change the prices of our raw materials and oil so we are forced to buy their industrial products.

However, we appear to the world as the party responsible for the increase of the debt as a result of excessive state spending. We appear to the world as refusing to pay and committing a unilateral act of injustice. On the contrary,

we must demand an open and firm dialogue with the industrialized countries to tell them that this circulation of money—which does not produce material goods, but only interest—is no longer applicable.

We cannot wait any longer. They need to renew their markets to solve the debt problem. We need to tell them that the theories of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] work against the renewal of the market that they, the rich countries, also need. The IMF's theories pressure our countries, contract our supply and demand, and view money not as capital of productive investment but as payment of a previously contracted debt.

President Sarney, under these circumstances it is necessary to protest before the world this centralist, ethnocentric perspective that is absolutely unfair. These presidential summits, which started off shyly and which were promoted by great men like [Venezuelan president] Carlos Andres [Perez], will continue. The clamor of Latin Americans is becoming unanimous and continual through their presidents until we manage to change these concepts and find a real international democracy. This is our demand before the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

If the French Revolution first gave us freedom, it should now give us justice with a responsible participation of the great world powers and the developed countries.

Speaking of democracy, how can we not say that our main concern is the continuation of democracy on our continent. Therefore, we hope that we will see no more obstacles such as the one that is threatening the Panamanian elections. We are concerned at the possibility that the Panamanian elections will not be free. We cannot easily express solidarity with processes that are not really and clearly clean. Our democratic conviction, which is our banner before the world, forces us to say so.

We demand a democratic interpretation of the Amazon region and its destiny, of the debt, and of the great universal problems. This is, I think, the main concept and fact on which our meeting was centered.

We thank President Sarney because the political and economic unity of Latin America would not be possible without Brazil. There has been a change of direction that we must recognize, a change that perhaps began with the brilliant intuition of [former Brazilian President-elect] Tancredo Neves who counseled us to again regard our continent as our destiny and our possibility of growth.

Now, when plans such as the Brady and Baker plans are discussed, the developed countries say: Let us lend some more money to the poor countries to allow them to pay their contracted debt, but let us supervise their economies to adjust, contract, and reduce their consumption, to guarantee their future payments.

This will not be so when Latin America finds the way to its integration, because integration means growth and market exchanges utilizing existing industries in our continent. Integration means freedom. This integration will not be possible without the determined political and poetic participation of our great brother [Brazilian President Jose] Sarney. We thank him and the Brazilian people for their hospitality. [applause]

Sarney Signs Letter of Intent To Build Road

PY0805163489 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] President Jose Sarney has signed a letter of intent in Manaus with the Government of Guyana for the construction of a 600-km road linking Boavista, capital of Roraima, with Georgetown, on the Caribbean coast.

The World Bank will finance half the cost of the project, making \$15 million available to Brazil. The other half is guaranteed by the Brazilian Government, which has committed itself to build 250 km of road in Guyanese territory.

Yugoslavia Grants Credit to Andean Countries

PA0805144689 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 25 Apr 89 p 2-2

[Summary] Yugoslavia has established a \$15-million credit for Andean countries to finance up to 85 percent of the cost of Yugoslav machinery, equipment, and services through the Andean Development Corporation. The credit is for Andean Group member countries Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

Cuba

Equipment Donated to Nicaraguan Mining Institute FL0805232289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1952 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Innovators from the electrical-technical shop of the National Geophysics Enterprise in this capital will donate to the Nicaraguan Mining Institute the equipment No 11 of the 0 series of laboratory timers called chronos CP-02. The prototype was also donated to Nicaragua.

Juan Carlos Munoz and Armando Mediavilla are the creators of this equipment capable of controlling the operation time of the alternate and direct current generators used in mineral laboratories for spectral essays. Each one of the timers costs \$800 in the international market. This is why the young brigade technicians decided to make a prototype which was donated to the Nicaraguans. The Nicaraguans expressed their gratitude for this aid which was characterized as valuable. The equipment is capable of measuring the exact time the mineral sample is exposed to the electric current arch.

COLINA Electoral Victory 'Confirmed' FL0805134089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The electoral victory of the eight parties that comprise the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, has been confirmed in Panama by COLINA presidential candidate Carlos Duque Jaen. The Panamanian general elections were held yesterday in a normal climate.

Nevertheless, the COLINA candidate himself denounced U.S. interference in Panama's internal affairs. He accused the United States of trying to influence voters. Duque Jaen said that Washington called the elections fraudulent even before the electoral results were confirmed. Duque Jaen said, textually: This attitude is obvious, bold intervention and disrespectful of the sovereign dignity of Panama.

Cooperation Meeting With Hungary Begins FL0805220989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The 16th intergovernmental meeting for the economic and scientific-technical cooperation between Cuba and Hungary has begun at Havana's Sierra Maestra Hotel. In a fraternal atmosphere, Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo [PCC], and Peter Megdyessy, vice president of the Council of Ministers of Hungarian People's Republic [title as heard], explained the economic situation in their respective countries. The negotiations will be fundamentally based on matters regarding the development of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between Cuba and Hungary.

Jorge Risquet Meets With 'Venceremos' Brigade FL0805210089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, has met with over 200 members of the Venceremos brigade, which is marking its 20th anniversary this year. The large group comes from over 50 cities and 20 states. They are members of some 200 U.S. social, religious, feminist, and humanitarian organizations. They were interested in learning about the Cuban nation, the situation in southwest Africa, and Cuba's stand on the foreign debt.

[Begin Risquet recording] The banner to abolish the foreign debt must be accompanied by the banner to put an end to unequal trade, an end to the current unfair international economic order with protectionism, dumping [preceding word in English], prices damaging to our goods with higher and higher prices for goods that are sold to us, and high interest rates. Therefore, together with the abolition of the foreign debt, we must wave the banner of a new international economic order. [end recording]

Castro Gives Banner to Ciego de Avila Contingent FL0805131089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has presented the banner creating the Vaquerito and Heroes de Cuito Cuanavale construction contingents in Ciego de Avila. The Vaquerito contingent is constructing the causeway that will link the northern coast of Ciego de Avila Province with Cayo Coco. The other contingent is implementing important hydraulic engineering projects to desalinate the Laguna de la Leche. The two projects are part of the country's tourism development program.

In a speech he gave at the ceremony in which the contingents were created, Fidel highly praised the work of the two collectives. The commander in chief said: You are shaping the future and the new generations of our country will always be grateful for this. Fidel also explained and stressed the significance and importance of the projects under construction. He said that only socialism can convert areas such as Cayo Coco into a source of well-being and wealth for the country. Cayo Coco will provide vast resources for the nation, he said. Currently, 26,000 workers have formed contingents and they produce twice as much with half the number of workers and equipment, he added. Fidel said that it is necessary to make up for lost time. Throughout the country, he added, there are tens of thousands of Cubans following the example set by the members of these contingents. This is what it truly means to be a patriot, a vanguard, a revolutionary, he added.

Fidel later said that attention to man is the main reason for the success of the contingents. The commander in chief said: Man cannot be bought with money but he can be won over with attention, recognition, and honor.

In conclusion, Fidel stressed: Tomorrow, we will be able to tell future generations that these true revolutionaries of today made the new fatherland possible.

More on Castro's Visit

FL0905025389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has visited several work collectives in Ciego de Avila Province. He also participated in the banner-awarding ceremony of the Roberto Rodriguez, el Vaquerito, and Heroes of Cuito Cuanavale contingents.

[Begin recording] [Video shows Castro handing banner over to workers.] [Unidentified speaker] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has awarded the banner to the contingents Roberto Rodriguez, el Vaquerito, in charge of building the causeway linking our island with Cayo Coco, and Heroes of Cuito Cuanavale, in charge of water resource management projects.

[Castro] The progress made in the construction of the causeway in these last 2 years is truly extraordinary. The progress made in the creation of the plans for the development of the key is extraordinary. There is already a master plan for the development of the key. The first camps to house the ones who are going to build hotels in the key are already being built. It is going to be an easy task to take the materials and everything needed for the construction with the causeway. Likewise, the camp we just saw for the first group that is going to work there is an excellent camp. It has a lunch room that, more than a lunch room, looks like a restaurant. The kitchen and the area where it serves has tiles. The shelters are excellent. It has excellent warehouses. Living conditions are already being created for those who are going to build here.

The key is going to turn into a mine of resources for the country. The foreigners who have visited this key have been impressed with the beauty of the place. They are going to be even more impressed when they see this project. Tourists are also going to like the scenery that one can see during the trip on the causeway through the ocean a lot. It was said here that most of the bridges are already completed. The drawbridge is at an advanced stage. Very little of the bridge's construction needs to be completed. The causeway is already beginning to be paved with inverted penetration. You can already see the height it has reached. It withstood winds, northern storms, and high tides. We are confident that that

causeway is capable of resisting any test. If there are difficulties we can elevate it even more. We are not concerned over any difficulty. If a large hurricane comes and damages the causeway, we will repair it immediately. That causeway is extremely useful. How could the thousands and thousands of rooms be built there? How can an entire tourist town be built without that causeway? Imagine how it would be to transport everything by land [corrects himself] by sea and through shallow waters from here to there. This is why we can say that our country has become richer through your efforts. The national territory has become larger by over 350 square kilometers thanks to you. That key was part of our country but we could not do anything with it. This causeway was needed. [end recording]

Previously, the chief of the revolution, accompanied by Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the province, toured the projects under construction at the Chicola dike; the 17-km causeway through the ocean in the northern Cayo Coco coast, where a strong tourism program is being planned; La Jaula camp; a border guard post; and the Ensenada de Bautista, where the Caribbean Construction Enterprises Union, UNECA, is building a camp that will house the construction forces of the Cayo Coco tourist program.

[Begin recording] [Castro, at a construction site] This is a great project. What are they doing there?

[First unidentified speaker] [Passage indistinct]

[Castro] [Passage indistinct]

[Second unidentified speaker, in progress] ... a group of small beaches and then there is a large beach called La Jaula, which is a large and very pretty beach....

[Castro, interrupting] Like this one?

[Second speaker] Yes or even better. We can go there later. Then, there are beaches and more beaches.

[Castro, speaking from podium] We are very pleased to see how well you are doing. I am pleased by the enthusiasm. I am pleased by the health of the members of the contingents. I can tell you that you are truly working for the future. You are forging the future. The new generations, the future generations of our country will always have to recognize you, will always have to honor you, and will always be proud of you. We will be able to tell them the revolutionaries were the ones who made possible the new fatherland. Those were the true revolutionaries, not with words but with deeds. [applause] This is why it pleases us to be able to hand you those banners you have won with the heroism of work. Fatherland or death, we will win! [crowd answers: We will win!] [applause] [end recording]

Visits Chambas 2 Dam Site

FL0805214789 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1932 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] During his 2d day in Ciego de Avila Province, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, visited today the area where the Chambas 2 Dam is being built. Accompanied by Alfredo Hondal, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary in the Ciego de Avila territory, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers showed interest in the progress of the projects being built in the province and the outlook of their completion.

Jose Eman, director of the engineering projects construction enterprise No 9 in Villa Clara, explained to the commander in chief that the Chambas 2 Dam will be partially completed in December 1990 and that it will be completely finished by 1991. Fidel also inquired about the building of the canal [words indistinct] Zaza Dam, Ciego de Avila, about the irrigation systems that will be built in the areas serviced by the supply line.

Raul Castro Tours Santiago de Cuba Province

FL0805153889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], was present at the ceremony marking the fulfillment of the sugar production plan in Santiago de Cuba Province. This is the seventh province to attain that goal.

Raul and the Santiago de Cuba sugar workers shared the victory attained in the present harvest. With this success, the workers of Santiago de Cuba march firmly and decisively toward their goal of hosting the Fourth PCC Congress. The fulfillment of their goal was not easy. It was necessary for the sugar workers to labor with much willingness and dedication to overcome the negative effects of the rains. The official announcement was made at the traditional site of the Paquito Rosales center. The event was attended by leaders of the PCC, MINAZ [Sugar Ministry], and Caridad Cabrera, Paquito's widow. This makes Santiago de Cuba the eighth province to fulfill its goal although its efficiency was not as high as expected.

During the ceremony, seven of the eight complexes throughout the country were included in the Vencedora category while special mention was made of the America Libre collective because of its high efficiency during the entire campaign. Up to the moment, the only one that did not fulfill its goal is the Chile complex which will be short about 8,000 tons of sugar.

In reference to production, the efforts of the agro-industrial workers are outstanding in planting, cultural tasks, and in plantation tasks which will guarantee the volume of sugarcane in the upcoming harvest.

Raul also toured several construction projects in Santiago de Cuba in honor of the Fourth PCC Congress. On this occasion, he reiterated the importance of stable work.

[Begin Raul Castro recording] I think its a matter of controlling the final marathon, because a marathon, as implied by the word itself, is a marathon. The way Cubans do marathons, they don't always end well. It has to end with the quality that is required by the project, not just that which is required for the Congress. [end recording]

He also was briefed on the progress of the construction of Revolution Square. Afterwards, the second secretary of the PCC Central Committee visited the Hotel Santiago site. This is the first five-star hotel under construction in Santiago de Cuba Province.

Internationalists Welcomed in Official Ceremony

FL0805212089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1706 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] A new group of internationalist combatants, who fulfilled missions in the People's Republic of Angola, were welcomed in an official ceremony at El Cacahual mausoleum. The ceremony was presided over by Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo. Close to 600 arrived to the fatherland recently. Among them were 84 women who are members of the first battery of the women's anti-aircraft artillery regiment of the Guantanamo Eastern Army. The combatants paid honor to Lieutenant General Antonio Maceo, his aide Panchito Gomez Toro, and revolutionary fighter Blas Roca Calderio.

[Begin Ramirez Cruz recording] Our party, our Revolution, and all the Cuban people value the historic significance of the mission you have fulfilled voluntarily and consciously on behalf of our fatherland. Long live our party! [crowd answers: Viva!] Long live our commander in chief! [crowd answers: Viva!] Fatherland or death! [crowd answers: We will win!] [applause] [end recording]

Technical Youth Brigades End Conference

FL0805165389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] More than 300,000 youths belonging to the Technical Youth Brigades [BTJ] throughout the country were represented by delegates attending the Sixth National BTJ Conference which ended at the Palace of Conventions.

The last day of the conference was dedicated to analyzing the document presented by the National BJT Council which summarized the organization's activities during the past 5 years, its achievements, deficiencies, and shortcomings, as well as the principal tasks it must confront in order to contribute to the social-economic and scientific-technical development of the country.

During the meeting, it was reported that the 1989 achievements represent more than 120 million pesos of the national economic plan, which reflects a savings of 50 percent by substituting imports.

The delegates to the meeting demonstrated the high work spirit that characterizes them and how much they have advanced during the 25-year history of the BJT.

Second Elections Held for People's Government

FL0805185489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 May 89

[Report by Gisela Bel Heredia]

[Text] The 14,246 delegates to the municipal assembly meetings corresponding to the sixth term of the local people's government have been elected throughout the country at the conclusion of the second round of elections where the 431 remaining delegates were selected. The successful first round elections were held on 30 April.

Yesterday, 92 percent of the registered voters cast their ballots in 13 provinces and the special municipality, Isle of Youth. The final results indicate that women represent 16.7 percent of the delegates, while workers represent more than 19 percent, and youths comprise 22.7 percent.

During the first round of elections, more than 98 percent of the registered population voted. Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, president of the National Electoral Commission and member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that this demonstrates the people's support for the government and the Revolution. He also described the elections as successful.

More than 6,500 candidates were reelected for this 2.5-year period, which shows the recognition and confidence that the neighbors have in their delegates.

*** Poor Planning, Discipline in MTT Exercises**

?2480118 Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish
Feb 89 pp 52-57

[Report by Roberto Travieso]

[Text] I was exhausted. They summoned me that day at 0800 hours for a study meeting of the reserves (20 days of training), and at 1100 hours many of us reservists from Old Havana were still in the amphitheater of our municipality.

The personnel roster was being checked, and the transportation was not ready. The cafe two blocks away was like a beehive of reservists; it was another 300 meters to the next one. How exasperated people were!

True, many were new here, but others were not, and yet their specialty was still not listed on the roster. They asked you right there or assigned you one. So, for example, an experienced artillery man was now a machine-gun operator, or someone who had taken the squad chief course was a communications man even though he was not familiar with this area.

Why, I thought, didn't each man have his place and specialty listed beforehand on the roster, inasmuch as the unit had to indicate (60 days ahead of time) the selection man by man in common agreement with the Military Committee? Greater rigor is required in the selection process, as it is not just a listing; rather, it must go into detail to streamline the rounding out of the unit.

In the meantime we talked. I learned thus that most had received notice in time and in proper form, but some got it at the last minute. The coordination between this unit and the Military Committee must undoubtedly be strengthened so that everyone is made aware of his mobilization 45 days ahead of time.

High noon. They ordered my company, number one, to board the truck. There were two vehicles. Naturally, we did not fit. We rode standing, without seat belts, holding on to one another or sitting on the rail. Every man for himself! It was a long and dangerous haul. Bad moods and unpleasant comments accompanied us throughout the trip. The last men (the logistics platoon) arrived at 1800 hours.

In camp, at last. The distribution of uniforms and equipment was truly outstanding for its organization and quickness. Some uniforms were new, and the old ones were clean and in good condition. We lunched, eating well. Nothing happened the rest of the day. We stretched out our beds on the ground in the platoon area alongside a stream next to the giant reeds. We were welcomed by a 9-foot-long boa and mosquitoes on the attack. The early morning cold kept us awake.

We were received the next day. We were a bit disoriented upon arriving. From the very beginning we needed immediate information on the unit, on how life was going to be there, we needed to get to know our superiors and the equipment for combat and mobilizational readiness. Twenty-four hours later we were unable to avoid the formality of communiques, when we would rather have heard the battalion chief tell us our mission directly, without high-sounding language.

Marches, an Unbeatable Method, But...

That same afternoon things got tough. The marches began, about 115 km with gear. A first phase of combat teamwork enabled the chiefs to get to know their men.

The truth is that a march along the path of victory is an unbeatable method of combat training. It prepared us physically and psychologically. There were those who thought they would not make it; yet they did. It got us used to enduring weariness and fatigue, with more than 50 pounds of gear, to withstanding hunger, cold and rain, to sleeping anywhere; in short, it inured us to the harsh life in the field. But as military training we did not find much substance to it.

We saw right away that the main shortcoming was the inadequate training of the chiefs of the small units. Consequently, the troops lost their interest and motivation.

The best way to achieve teamwork is to introduce dynamics during the march (though it is not obligatory during this first phase), whereby the chiefs lead the men in combat, show how to deploy the platoon, etc.

But the shoemaker's children are always the worst shod. This technique was used only once during the march. During the "ambush" we did not even hear a single command, nor was the repelling action organized; everyone just fired when and from where he wanted. In spite of everything, it broke the monotony.

Moreover, when they gave the signal for the gas attack, they used very little of the chemical (chloropicrin or chloracetophenone) that produces the real psychological effect. Therefore, we violated the procedure for the use of the gas mask.

We knew how to walk but not march under the influence of the "enemy." There was no discipline on the march. The small units intermingled; no one kept his place in formation, nor did the men maintain the distance between each other.

The stragglers who could not keep up with the pace of the march did not care where they were going, while the men in front seemed to be in a "competition" to get to the platoon area first so that they could find the best place to string their hammock. Once we had arrived, it was good-bye circular defense and night watch.

The experts in the military arts say that before setting out, the troops must be instructed as to the tactical conditions, their mission and itinerary, scouts must be appointed, they must be told what to do in the event of an air attack...conveying the battalion chief's decisions through the chain of command. A combatant is thus made aware of the need for the march. But we did not see this happen during our study meeting.

To my way of thinking, it would have been more productive to go on shorter marches (the number of kilometers is not the important thing) and to devote part of them to exercises that would have made them livelier and more instructive and tested the capacity, initiative and know-how of the chiefs and our own combat readiness.

There were few dirt paths and local roads on the itinerary chosen. We often walked along the highway, facing dangerous, oncoming traffic and with the disadvantage that we were not getting used to taking advantage of the possibilities of the terrain. We did not go on nighttime marches and only once (a bad time because we got lost) did we cross rugged terrain, which forced us, with tongues hanging out, to develop our stamina and sense of direction and to climb over a variety of obstacles.

And Then...the 'Rides'

That was how it was. The highway made it easy to get rides. Several comrades, taking the path of least resistance or simply to prove themselves "clever," like bulls going over the cape, got in whatever vehicle stopped for them. No one else seemed to mind, so they had a green light and arrived smiling and smug as if they had done a heroic deed. What a contrast to the men who called on their honor, their morals and their conscience and walked the whole way with or without blisters. But today's "clever" guys could be tomorrow's first casualties.

By the way, not everyone got the message that during the mobilization we had temporarily ceased to be civilians and had become soldiers. This adversely affected military discipline and caused friction between soldiers and officers, who at times prompted shows of disrespect from the former.

Most maintained a proper attitude during the period. Yet the above problem detracted from the seriousness with which a given order was complied with: "Lieutenant, the men aren't up for this," some said. Some careless people fired practice shells during the march or at night, without thinking about the possibility of fatal accidents, and others did not take proper care of the equipment even though the chiefs had told them to.

Moreover, there were problems with mobilizational readiness due to our constant absences without permission. Rarely was our small unit complete. And in spite of these violations, the final evaluation depended only on the presentation of the demobilization card (with or without absences) and of the certificate to the outstanding soldiers.

Where is the active, underlying function of the evaluation, the comprehensive approach, the objective analysis of the merits and attitude of the troops during the entire period and the discussion of each man? If this had been the case, it could have represented the groundwork on

which the area of attention and the work center could perhaps assess the conduct of each man, with the findings made available to his work group.

Given the limitations of life in the field, the food was acceptable, with good and bad days. There were no measuring devices to apportion it, however, so sometimes there was more than enough and other times comrades were in a bad mood because there was nothing left. So we had to mobilize our forces and prepare more food. And on several occasions we made it to our destination tired and then had to wait (with our stomachs growling) for the food truck.

As an aside, the small service (logistics) unit did not undergo training. Its men spent all their time (and they had some left over) carrying the food and equipment. No classes and combat training for them. Why did they go?

The Program of Classes, Good and Bad

Some classes were beneficial, well taught and awakened our interest, such as the classes in military medicine, defense against incendiary and chemical weapons and orientation in the field without a map. Others were dull.

Some details were missing in the combined classes, which are an effective method. The first class (combat firing, topography and chemical defense) achieved its objective, and we learned, but the time wasted waiting for it to begin conspired against the development of the subject matter and its practice. Moreover, we fired, and then the procedures for firing were imparted. It was putting the cart before the horse.

A second combined class (firing with an AKM rifle) consisted of rotating the platoons in four areas before conducting the basic exercise. In short, the idea never got off the ground, as it meant sitting right in one of the areas and waiting your turn to fire, without doing the rotation. Maybe they wanted to prevent us from getting dizzy.

Since they did not explain that in the conning tower the number assigned to each reservist matched his order in the file, some did not keep their places and there was quite a mess. There were mistakes in scoring.

I went in the hope of learning more about the variations of an enemy attack and how to counter them, about the actions of soldiers on the defensive and the offensive, during containment and annihilation ambushes, during the crossing of mine fields...but as the song goes, I was disappointed.

Sleep overcame some reservists when the man in charge of the political class merely read all of the material, without even commenting on it. Methodological indications? None. Enjoyment? On vacation. During the third class of responses to the questionnaire, however, he elicited good participation. Congratulations.

Spirit of Emulation Lacking

We had a change of command after a week. The new battalion chief, Captain Eduardo Madem, is a demanding, accessible chief who is concerned about the state of his men and about direct work with them. He walked at the head of his troops at all times (like the rest of the command). Along with the chief of staff, Capt Raul Dorta, he strove to correct the aforementioned shortcomings, but not all of the officers corps and the political organizations responded the same to him.

Some reservists also stood out for their efforts, such as Julian Abreu, whose grenade-launcher squad was a model of organization and discipline, and Andres Correa, the chief of the second company. And they were not the only ones.

There was a lack of support in kindling enthusiasm for emulation among the small units. Company No 2 merits special mention in this regard. The main shortcoming was the failure to conduct the checkups every day, though they were in the home stretch. In the beginning they sought to select the outstanding soldiers and the vanguards for 2 and 3 days at a time, relying on memory, which was neither fair nor instructive. We learned of the first emulation results in formation 10 days into this study meeting.

During my leisure time I managed to devour several pages of the Decameron, because recreation was out of the question. It was very difficult, of course, to concern oneself with and see to this activity under conditions in the field. It is unacceptable, however, that we got newspapers only twice. We were out of touch with what was happening in Cuba and the rest of the world. Of course they did not know about us either.

Aside from the commemoration of historic dates, we witnessed a constructive promotion of patriotic-military work during our visit to the Tapaste powder magazine, where we paid tribute to the reservists who died in the accident there in September 1985. In an atmosphere devoid of all formality the soldiers were able to exchange impressions with the chief of that unit.

More Realism Needed

The day that everyone was waiting for came: the final tactical maneuver. The indicated time was 0500 hours, the chiefs said, but...we got up at 0700, 2 hours after the chiefs of the superior command conducted the infantry inspection (the inspection could have been yesterday, when we were completely inactive). It was interrupted by an intense rain shower. For much of the morning we took shelter under the nylon sheets. The weather cleared, and we heard signals. Only the battalion staff performed.

The march began. We occupied a high-security zone. So did the rest of the units assigned to the battalion with the artillery pieces, the mortars...Night fell. All hell broke

loose. The mock enemy "attacked" and tried to steal rifles from our platoon. The response? A lot of shouting. We had not organized our defense. Afterwards we slept like logs.

Day broke. All of the equipment and men headed for the battalion defense area. We were expecting something different. What a disappointment! We were all dressed up with nowhere to go. After occupying the area, the members of my company (each from his position) sat down to gaze ecstatically at the countryside and to listen to the dummy artillery explosions under the orders of the battalion chief. Those who had rounds fired. We did not even dig a foxhole. That was how the scene ended.

In this type of exercise it is very important for the combatant to experience the rigor of combat, to feel that his platoon is fulfilling a mission, to feel pressure from the chiefs giving commands, to be aware of dynamics that force his small unit to operate independently, in other words, to experience what many describe as an exercise that is as realistic as possible, which is what the chiefs of the Revolutionary Armed Forces have always demanded.

Personally, I feel that in spite of everything this maneuver helped to familiarize us with the region that our small unit defends and gave its chiefs an opportunity to exercise command.

Last came the collection of the equipment. It most resembled a disorderly line at a store, with people "butting in" and everything. The transportation back home was like a story that never ends. So, some walked all the way, while the fortunate among us jammed into the unit's trucks and rode to the bus stop.

Reflection in Order

It is obvious. There are still shortcomings to be corrected in the novel experience of training this small reserve unit from Old Havana. Since it shares the first line of defense with the standing troops, reflection is in order with regard to the preparation of its officers and the training of its troops.

The "Advice to Militiamen (The Marches)" of Commander Ernesto "Che" Guevara that VERDE OLIVO published in December 1960 must be remembered and put into practice because of its unquestionable currency and instructional content. As he asserts, "marches are an unbeatable school for the combat preparation of battalions," but they must not consist "merely of training; they should also involve instruction." And we have yet to achieve this in our small unit. We hope that we do better in future training sessions.

Caricom

Foreign Ministry Officials Continue Sessions *FL0505135189 Bridgetown CANA in English* 2340 GMT 4 May 89

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, May 4, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) Foreign Ministry officials meeting here today made steady progress on their several agenda items, as they prepare for next week's 15th Caricom foreign minister's conference, a spokesman reported. The two-day meeting of officials is being chaired by permanent secretary in St Lucia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Earl Hunteley, who said that attention was paid to the situation in Haiti, Central America, Belize, Guyana, Venezuela, and Guatemala. He said that the officials have made certain recommendations for the consideration of Caricom foreign ministers on the situation in Haiti, and what role, if any, Caricom can play in that situation.

"For obvious reasons I cannot tell you the details of our recommendations on Haiti but we had an enlightened discussion on the situation there, and it is now up to the minister to decide finally," he said.

The chairman said that the meeting was brought up to date with the situation in the Guyana/Venezuela and the Belize/Guatemala territorial disputes. "We thought that at present there appear to be more positive developments and signs for a resolution to the Guyana/Venezuela affair as there was now a closer rapport between the two states."

However, Hunteley said that in the other dispute, things had not gone as smoothly, as there have been setbacks in terms of negotiations, "but they are still working at it."

The officials were expected to go late into the evening with their discussion on the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) as it affected Caricom states, and the issue of a unified Europe and the Lome trade and aid convention and the Caribbean. Discussion will continue Friday on the international economic situation, the international political situation, the environment, and Caricom's relationship with the Organisation of America States.

The meeting is being attended by all member territories of the Caribbean Community with the exception of St Vincent and the Grenadines, gearing for general elections.

Meeting Ends in St Lucia

FL0805150889 Bridgetown CANA in English
1606 GMT 6 May 89

[Excerpts] Castries, St Lucia, May 6, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) Foreign Ministry officials have ended a 2-day meeting here with recommendations to governments on issues including helping troubled Haiti. The meeting, which looked at topics ranging from the

impact the unification of the European countries will have on the Caribbean, and territorial disputes in the Americas, was in preparation for a meeting of Caricom foreign ministers here on Monday and Tuesday.

"It was a very fruitful meeting in terms of the indepth discussions we had and the conclusions we arrived at on a wide range of issues," said chairman of the meetings, Earl Hunteley.

Hunteley, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in St Lucia, said the issue which took up the most time was the role which Caricom can play in helping to bring Haiti back to the democratic process.

"We did suggest a way forward and what is going to the ministers on Haiti is the substance of our discussions and it will be up to the ministers to decide how they can deal with that situation," he said. "We did feel that the Caribbean Community needed to take some initiative with respect to what is happening in Haiti," Hunteley added. [passage omitted]

The officials made recommendations to the ministers on what stand they should take on the Central American issue, basically endorsing the peace process which was initiated by the Central American countries.

They also received reports on Caricom's ongoing relationship with Suriname and Brazil, and the status of applications with the Netherlands Antilles and the Turks and Caicos for membership of the Caribbean Community.

Delegates looked at ways in which the new legislation governing the Caribbean Basin Initiative—the U.S. trade and aid plan for the Caribbean and Central America—could be improved to the benefit of the region, and examined the status of negotiations for the new Lome convention linking Europe and developing countries.

"It was pointed out that Haiti had been accepted by the ACP (African, Caribbean, and Pacific) countries at the negotiating round in Brazzaville, while the officials have made a recommendation to the minister on whether or not they should support the application from the Dominican Republic", Hunteley said.

The meeting recommended that Caricom should initiate a study on the full implications of Europe's proposed single market in 1992, so that details of the implications for the Caribbean Community can be clear.

Hunteley said the officials also paid attention to Caricom's relationship and status with the OAS, which is now going through a severe financial crisis.

This means that one has to sit back and examine what role Caricom can play in trying to improve the situation there, and we again recommended to the ministers that

Caricom play a more active roll within the OAS, and within the process of reevaluating the future directions of the organisation," he said. [quotation marks as received]

Bahamas

Joint, Unilateral Cocaine Confiscation Figures FL0805140289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2215 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, May 6, CANA—The Bahamas Government considers that on its own it has been making a sizeable dent in the illegal drugs business. In 1987, of the 22,380 pounds of cocaine seized in the Bahamas, 11,982 pounds were seized by Bahamian law officers acting unilaterally. In 1988, of the 20,557 pounds of cocaine seized in the Bahamas, 6,177 pounds were seized by Bahamian action and 14,379 pounds by various forms of joint actions. Provisional figures indicate that from January 1, 1989, to March 31, 1989, 4,217 pounds of cocaine have been seized, 1,818 pounds of this taken by Bahamian police.

The figures were released by National Security Minister Paul Adderley, stung by charges that the United States was doing all the work in what was supposed to be a joint drug eradication campaign. "The certification process which has been imposed upon us by the United States dictates that an element for consideration in determining whether we are a cooperating country for their purpose is how much drug law enforcement is undertaken in the Bahamas by Bahamian law officers without United States law enforcement officers' participation," Adderley reported.

"Regrettably, the State Department reports on the Bahamas have claimed that all drug seizures were made by joint efforts and that no marijuana or cocaine was seized by Bahamian law officers on their own initiative. Nothing could be further from the truth. But it has given excuses for people like Senator John Kerry to claim that the Bahamas is doing nothing to arrest drug traffickers unless the United States is involved," he added.

Minister Adderley said that both in 1988 and 1989, Sen Kerry has made the claim that the Bahamas cannot be said to be cooperating if "we (United States) are doing the job, not them." He said that in 1989, the State Department made a similar claim that all the cocaine seized in the Bahamas was a result of joint operations. "In 1989, Senator Kerry made the same charge again in almost identical words when he said: 'How can you say that the Bahamas is cooperating if the process is corrupt, if we are doing all the work,'" Minister Adderley said.

Adderley noted that recently at a conference in Miami, President George Bush called upon Latin American law enforcement officers to join in a new era of cooperation with the United States in the war against drugs. "We were delighted to hear him say this because we in the

Bahamas have been doing that on a scale unmatched by any other country for the past 14 years," Minister Adderley said. "But we have to begin to tell this story so that it becomes better known to all relevant persons in the United States," he said.

The Bahamas Government has also come under fire from U.S. Congressman Edward Feighan who claimed there was "widespread corruption" in the Bahamas.

The government said the country produces no drugs and devotes "14 per cent of its national budget to fight the flow" of drugs from Latin America to the United States. "The honour and integrity of our government and its institutions is equal to that of the United States in every regard and our commitment to waging war on those who traffic in illicit drugs is unshakable," a statement from the Bahamas Information Service said.

Feighan, an Ohio congressman, told the House of Representatives that the Bush administration had chosen to turn a blind eye to a "mountain of evidence of official corruption in the Bahamas" when it decided recently to certify the country as having taken steps to eliminate corruption by government officials. He called on the United States to cut off the nation from any American assistance.

The Bahamas statement said the territory was a "front line state in the fight to halt drug trafficking in the region....only last month the American ambassador in Nassau, Carol Boyd Hallett, in certifying to President Bush our commitment to this battle, said, "The Bahamas does more to assist the United States in the war on drugs than any other country in the world", it went on. It also referred to testimony before Congress in March by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's assistant administrator, David Westrate, that the Bahamas "is clearly a success story" and that because of government cooperation, drug trafficking through the Bahamas is declining.

The Council on Hemispheric Affairs said the United States may be close to losing "patience" with the Bahamas over what is being seen as the Caribbean state's reluctance to deal effectively with both drug trafficking and official corruption there. The Washington-based think tank also stated that as the Bahamian prime minister, Sir Lynden Pindling, was "losing credibility" in the United States, more and more questions were being asked about his administration's antidrug fight. On top of that, the Pindling government, once considered by Washington as a "model of cooperation" in the battle against drugs, was now facing a bill in Congress to "de-certify" the nation as a useful ally in the drug war, the council added.

"While Congress is unlikely to actually de-certify Nassau, it appears that Washington is on the brink of losing its patience," it stated in a report on the Bahamas. But Bahamian Government officials say they are getting a raw deal.

Haiti

Press Views Laforest Murder, Avril's Position
FL0805210789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 8 May 89

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The major newspapers this week devoted their front pages to the assassination of Haitian State Lottery Director Gerard Laforest.

Under the title "Gerard Laforest, Avril's Good Friend, Assassinated. Is This a Message?" the paper HAITI EN MARCHE, in an article signed by (Jean Robert Herard), writes: The assassination of Gerard Laforest delivers the clear message that macoutism still prevails. Like certain other politicians, Gerard Laforest could not understand that it was not in Prosper Avril's interest to decapitate Duvalierism with one fell swoop. According to HAITI EN MARCHE, this murder highlights the weakness of General Avril's government. [passage omitted]

The paper says Laforest was killed because of his decision to do away with the corruption within the State Lottery. [passage omitted] According to HAITI EN MARCHE, the State Lottery became the fief, so to speak, of members of the Army as of 7 February 1986.

For its part, HAITI-PROGRES believes that no one has a chance in hell of correcting Duvalierism. The assassination of Gerard Laforest should serve to convince all who thought they could do something with Duvalierism.

HAITI-PROGRES places responsibility for this assassination on a macoute sector that is against change of any kind. However, writes HAITI-PROGRES: Even if Gerard Laforest participated in all kinds of anti-Duvalier demonstrations abroad, the fact that he was in the Avril government shows he was a capitalist, and that he had turned into a supporter of Duvalierism.

The [weekly] PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, for its part, devotes its editorial to Prosper Avril. When your name is Prosper Avril, you have to show proof, writes the periodical. Under this title, PETIT SAMEDI SOIR returns to the relations between the government and the opposition, and to one of the sensitive issues, the Constitution of 1987, which the periodical says is at the root of all of today's political confrontations in Haiti.

The periodical says that General Avril (?is seeking) every occasion to shed the legacy, the mantle, of Duvalierism. When your name is Prosper Avril you have to show proof that you are clearly, thoroughly against Duvalierism, it writes. According to PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, Prosper Avril is alone, a prisoner in the Palace, a victim of the conditions under which he assumed power. [passage omitted]

More on Murder of Director

*FL0805161989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1100 GMT 8 May 89*

[Excerpt] The funeral of Gerard Laforest, who was the director of the Haitian State Lottery, will be held this morning at 0800. Laforest was found murdered, with two bullets in his body, on Saturday 29 April, on Rue des Fronts Forts, not too far from the Cafeteria [police station on Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines].

The first reports on the assassination said that two individuals, one of them wearing a military uniform, had gotten into Laforest's car in the vicinity of Delmas 35. [passage omitted]

Caribbean Rights Groups Plead for Boat People

*FL0505204789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1300 GMT 5 May 89*

[Text] There was a big meeting of all Caribbean human rights organizations in Puerto Rico last 29-30 April. All these organizations sat down together to discuss human rights in the Caribbean. Following this meeting, these organizations published a resolution on Haiti.

This resolution firmly condemned the sabotage on four radio stations in Port-au-Prince. The resolution also condemned this business of officials, be they Bahamian or American, capturing Haitian boat people taking to the seas in search of a better life in foreign countries. The human rights organizations called for an end to this capturing of Haitian refugees on the high seas and sending them back. According to these Caribbean human rights organizations, this violates international law and the protocols having to do with refugees.

The Caribbean human rights organizations called on Caribbean governments, particularly members of Caricom [Caribbean Common Market], to increase their contacts to help the Haitian people, who are encountering great difficulties in (?establishing) proper democracy in Haiti, and to support the work of the new Provisional Election Council, which under the constitution is fully empowered to organize and proclaim the results of elections in Haiti.

Mr Jean-Claude Bajoux and (Jacinthe Saurel) from Haiti's Ecumenical Center for Human Rights attended this meeting.

Bajoux To Head Caribbean Human Rights Network

*FL0805204289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1100 GMT 8 May 89*

[Text] A press release from the Ecumenical Center for Human Rights announces that Mr Jean-Claude Bajoux, who is in charge of this center, was chosen head of the

Caribbean Human Rights Network [preceding organization name in English] by acclamation and for a period of 2 years, during a meeting held 29 April-1 May 1989 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Caribbean Human Rights Network is a large human rights organization working particularly with several human rights organizations in the Caribbean. It also maintains close relations with many other human rights organizations worldwide.

The Ecumenical Center for Human Rights feels that Mr Bajoux's appointment is evidence of the great interest the Caribbean human rights organizations have in the situation of human rights in Haiti. The center says it is convinced that Mr Bajoux will take advantage of this opportunity to continue to form close international relations that will be useful in continuing the work of defending human rights here in Haiti.

Marc Bazin Calls for Elections by End of Year

*FL0505203989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1300 GMT 5 May 89*

[Excerpts] Marc Louis Bazin, president of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], yesterday called for elections in Haiti before the end of 1989. Speaking over Radio Metropole yesterday afternoon, MIDH President Bazin said he feels the population is waiting for an unblocking of the current situation in Haiti. The situation will be unblocked when a civilian government is installed in power; thus, elections must be organized in Haiti by the end of 1989 at all costs, said Mr Bazin.

We remind listeners that Mr Bazin is the second political leader to call for elections at the end of 1989, after Hubert de Ronceray. [passage omitted]

Mr Bazin said he is greatly encouraged by President Prosper Avril's latest message in which the president affirmed his willingness to guarantee free and honest elections in Haiti.

Queried on the current political climate in Haiti, the MIDH leader said he thinks the current juncture does not present any difficulties, any problems that could prevent the unfolding of the electoral process in Haiti. Marc Bazin feels there are two current priorities: unity within the Army and the holding of elections. At present, these two things are essential, important for Haiti, Mr Bazin stated.

The MIDH leader added that no other institution can function normally, in peace and harmony and in a stable manner, as long as there is no cohesiveness, no unity, within the Haitian Armed Forces. The Army has to be able to unite in order to function normally, so as to permit the nation's other institutions to also function normally.

Expressing the hope of seeing real democracy within the Army, Mr Bazin said that at present only elections can solve the current crisis in Haiti.

Further on Call for Elections

FL0805160289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1600 GMT 5 May 89

[Excerpts] Here in Haiti, Marc Bazin of the MIDH is the second political leader to call for general elections in Haiti before December 1989. [passage omitted] Marc Bazin explains his position to [reporter] Rothschild. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Bazin] It would be advisable to hold elections before the end of 1989, and for those elections to begin with the presidential and legislative elections, held simultaneously, and that we not begin the process with the municipal elections and the elections for Casecs [Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections].

I say this because, first of all, in the hierarchy of power in a democracy, the legislative and presidential elections constitute the most important steps. Also, as regards the Casecs, we can foresee several difficulties at the institutional level, on the electoral level, and even as regards campaigning that could interfere with this lowest level.

The second thing we ask is not only that the elections for deputies, senators, and president be held simultaneously before the end of 1989, but also we think it would be a good idea for us to have a democratically-elected president installed in the government on 7 February 1990.

We also believe that in order to encourage a clear election, the election council could this time adopt a method of voting that we have (?never) used. What I, we, propose is a form of election by absolute majority. That is, for there to be names on a single ballot of candidates for president, deputies, and senators. The voter would thus be voting for several members on a list at the same time, as a package deal, which gives the voter the opportunity to vote in one fell swoop for everyone who approves of the political program of the person who heads the list. This person is, of course, the presidential candidate.

[Reporter] [Passage omitted] Should the election council not adopt your proposal, and should you be elected president, will you willing to collaborate with an opposition majority in the parliament?

[Bazin] This cannot happen if the method of voting for a list of candidates, and electing them by an absolute majority, is adopted, because if Bazin is elected, all of Bazin's people are automatically chosen along with him. And if he loses, they all lose.

However, let's say they adopt a different kind of polling method, and this occurs. Then it would be up to Bazin to find a way to do the job the nation would have given him to do as president of the Republic anyway, regardless of what kind of parliamentary majority the nation gave him. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Provisional Election Council Reports Activities

FL0805205689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1100 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] An election council report on Tuesday, 2 May, states that as part of its search for a permanent headquarters, a member of the Provisional Election Council [CEP] accompanied by National Education Ministry Director General Jean Saint-Fort visited a large house belonging to the ministry located on Delmas 71.

On Tuesday, the CEP was visited by French Ambassador to Haiti Jean Raphael Dufour and French Embassy Political Affairs Secretary Mrs Hamilton. The ambassador expressed the French Government's willingness to do whatever it can to help further democracy in Haiti, through the support they are going to give the CEP, in keeping with the requests the CEP makes of the French Government.

In answer to technical questions from the CEP, the ambassador tried to share the many experiences France has had as regards elections both inside France and its overseas territories. On Thursday, 4 May, the CEP members worked on the draft of the CEP's organic law. The following day, the CEP examined a temporary operating budget for April-June 1989. They discussed and approved the draft budget, before deciding to submit it to the executive branch through the Justice Ministry.

This news comes from the CEP.

Officers Fire Saint-Marc City Hall Employees

FL0805160989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in Creole 1600 GMT 5 May 89

[Report from Saint-Marc correspondent Lionel Exantus]

[Excerpt] Twenty-seven people were fired from Saint-Marc City Hall on Wednesday, 3 May. After the 17 September coup d'etat, Saint-Marc City Hall got a new magistrates cartel, which had been managing it since January. Many people were fired after this cartel was installed, so that the cartel could satisfy its sympathizers. Exactly 3 months later, last 15 April, this cartel—made up of (Vital Alexis), (Fidel Ambroise), and (Roosevelt Jean)—was itself fired.

The new cartel replacing it is made up of (Raymond Desruisseaux), also known as (Popeye); (Louissaint Facile); and (Yves Kenol). On Wednesday, they fired 27 people, both young and old.

There is much complaining going on in City Hall. Some people say they don't know why they were fired. We must explain to listeners that that's how things always are at City hall. Every new cartel always brings its own people with it. [passage omitted]

Vigilance Brigade Members Arrested for Murder
FL0805162589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 8 May 89

[Excerpts] At the order of the Justice Department, the Croix des Bouquets police Friday [5 May] arrested 19 members of a vigilance brigade in a place called (Dabon). These arrests came after the members of this vigilance brigade captured and burned to death a peasant they took for a thief. The area authorities censure the (Dabon) brigade members for killing the citizen, whom they had already captured and could have turned over to the police.

It is reported that the Court of Conciliation in Croix des Bouquets will be the one to decide when these people are to be brought before a judge. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the 23 members of the Cite Soleil vigilance brigade are still in jail, despite the legal action the brigade and its lawyers have been taking for the past 2 weeks. According to (Marjorie Desert), the brigade's secretary general, the lawyers, the Public Prosecutor, and even the dean of the civil court on Wednesday had already complied with all the formalities to free the men. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

(Desert) said there is crooked wheeling-dealing going on to keep the men in prison as long as possible. She also denounced the way the men have been treated in prison, based on the wound marks noticed on their bodies. [passage omitted]

Social Affairs Minister Tours Central Plateau
FL0805205089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 8 May 89

[Report from Hinche correspondent Moliere Richard]

[Text] (?From Thursday) 4 to Sunday 7 April [month as heard], Social Affairs Minister Louis Arnault Guerrier toured the central plateau, visiting different areas in both the lower and upper plateau. The goal of the visit was to listen to the grievances of the population of the central plateau and to form a committee for coordination against poverty. Four ministries will have representatives on this committee: Public Health, Agriculture, Public Works, and Social Affairs.

At 1000 on Friday, the minister met with several prominent figures and members of Casac [Administrative Council for the Communal Section]. The Casac members lay before him the problems they are encountering in the communal sections.

At that same meeting, young people told the minister, with new Social Affairs Director (Thomas D. Jean-Baptiste) present, that they did not want (Jean-Baptiste) as director because he is a long-standing Duvalierist who has already occupied several positions under Duvalier. The young people gave Mr (Rick Garnier) a dossier they had prepared on (Jean-Baptiste) to give to the minister.

As a former member of the Constitutional Assembly, (Rick Garnier) asked the minister to ask General Avril if Article 291 does not apply to the central plateau—whether he can give us (Thomas D. Jean-Baptiste) as social affairs director!

TV Station Running Test Broadcasts in Jacmel
FL0505205689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 5 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Jacmel correspondent Mozart Duplan informs us that a television station, just as in Port-au-Prince, is at present running its test broadcasts in Jacmel. This will be the third provincial town to have a television station after Port-de-Paix, which now has a television station broadcasting to Haiti's Department of the Northwest, and Saint-Marc, for which a television station is projected.

Now Jacmel is going to have a television station too. This already constitutes progress in the area of communications. We hope this television station will be long-lived in the Jacmel area and that it will provide entertainment and information for the population in the Jacmel area normally. [passage omitted]

Brisk Sales in Machetes Causes Public Fear
FL0505202689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 5 May 89

[Excerpts] We have noticed that machetes have been selling like hotcakes in the capital for a few months now—in fact, not just in Port-au-Prince but throughout Haiti. This is making the population anxious. The population is sort of frightened.

In view of this situation, Radio Nationale went out into the streets of the capital to undertake an investigation. We interviewed a few of the vendors selling these machetes. They gave us their impressions about this business of machetes that have been selling like hotcakes in the capital for the past few months. [Reporter] Michel Lubin will give us more details.

[Lubin] Machetes have been selling at a brisk pace in Haiti for some time now, and these sales are making the population quite anxious, especially since—say certain observers—this has been the case before certain massacres, incidents in which there was bloodshed, such as those that occurred in Jean-Rabel and Labadie, Saint Jean Bosco, etc. We hear that these same observers are wondering if this could be preparation for another

bloody battle among Haitians in the near future. These observers note that given the great number of machetes being sold daily, it looks as if there might be something behind it.

Thus, in our little tour of downtown Port-au-Prince, we interviewed a couple of machete vendors who are making lots of money by selling machetes. [passage omitted] One of the vendors of the 15-gourde machetes told us they were selling a lot of them. Now, this does not keep the vendors from seeing that these sales constitute a danger. However, they say that since they need to make a little money in order to feed their children, they are obliged to sell the machetes. They see people buying machetes but do not know why these people are buying them.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] I do see that it constitutes a danger, but since we need to make money so we can feed our children, we have to sell them. We aren't doing it on purpose. We cannot do otherwise.

[Reporter] But what makes you feel it constitutes a danger?

[Speaker] A danger for the Haitian masses. They are buying them. However, in fact, we do not know what they are going to do with them. We are selling them, (?and) we don't know why they are buying them. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How long have you been selling machetes?

[Speaker] Well, I don't know how long they have been selling them.

[Reporter] No, I mean you, yourself. When did you, yourself, start selling machetes?

[Speaker] No, the machetes are not mine. Somebody set them here beside me so I could sell them. [passage omitted] I am selling them for her.

[Reporter] Some people think that those who come to buy the machetes are supposed to go and do something awful with them later. For example, the people who think this make reference to a number of massacres that have taken place—in Labadie, [at Saint Jean Bosco Church in Port-au-Prince] on 11 September 1988, and in Jean-Rabel. What can you tell us about this?

[Speaker] No, since it is not me selling them—know what I mean? The machetes are not my merchandise. A sister-in-law of mine set them here beside me so I could sell them, understand? But I think it is not a good idea to sell them, you know? Because they are being sold, but you don't know what the buyers are going to do with them. [passage omitted] I see that there is danger in it. I

am even selling picks ["pik," a generic term for any sharp-pointed object]. I can see that they are dangerous. Sometimes when I sell them, I put them inside. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

[Lubin] We must point out that the machete vendors get the machetes by the dozen, from stores. We will come back to this matter soon. This is the first part of a reportage.

Further on Machete Sales

FL0805212089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole
1300 GMT 8 May 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We have met with the small-time vendors selling machetes in the capital, and we sought to talk to the owner of a store that sells agricultural tools in downtown Port-au-Prince. He believes that instead of (?dealing in) rumors, suggestions useful to all peasants should be made. [passage omitted] Our reporter will give us more details:

[Unidentified reporter] [Passage omitted] A number of other people say that many families are forced to buy machetes so they can defend themselves in case they have to confront insecurity, for they cannot acquire a firearm. Everybody sees this traffic in machetes his own way.

In this connection, in another tour of downtown Port-au-Prince, we met with the owner of a store that sells agricultural tools such as hoes, pruning knives, pickaxes, machetes, and so forth. He told us he had heard that there were many wrong ideas circulating about the sale of machetes in Haiti, and added that people who disapproved of these sales should come up with other, good ideas that would permit the peasant to (?acquire) tools other than machetes. [passage omitted]

This proprietor went even farther, telling us that if machetes can be used as weapons of aggression, other agricultural tools such as hoes, pruning knives, etc., can also be considered weapons, and thus should not be sold at all. He said the reason machetes were selling so well was that there had been a reduction in their price. [passage omitted]

According to this storeowner, the few machetes that do come into the country enter Haiti as contraband from the Dominican Republic. [passage omitted]

The people dwelling on the problems that machete sales could cause Haitian society should instead come up with some good suggestions as to how to help the peasants, according to the storeowner. The interview ended there.

We will come back one more time to this growing traffic in machetes in Haiti. This is the second part of a dossier we have opened on the sale of machetes.

Thieves Said Released Under 'Macoute' Pressure
*FL0505210289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1100 GMT 5 May 89*

[Text] According to the people's organizations of Gros Morne, in the Artibonite Valley, thieves and murderers have been keeping the area's population up at night for several weeks now. On 18 April, a vigilance brigade helped the military capture a team of thieves. Within a week the macoutes in Gros Morne got the leader of the team released. This astonished the (?people's organizations). They were then even more astonished to learn that the police had arrested a vigilance brigade team in Cite Soleil.

The people's organizations of Gros Morne hope that the members of the Cite Soleil vigilance brigade are released, for it is because they are not being ensured security that they are having to seek it for themselves. The people's organizations also express the hope that the authorities in Gros Morne are going to arrest all the thieves who were released as a result of macoute pressure.

Jamaica

Government To Increase Key Employees' Salaries
*FL0505182789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1736 GMT
5 May 89*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 5, CANA—The Jamaica Government has confirmed that it is planning to offer significant salary increases to key civil service employees, but rejected claims that the move was in order to raise the pay of ministers and other parliamentarians. "If the salary and working conditions of civil servants are

not addressed, then they will continue to vote with their feet by resigning their jobs," Finance and Public Service Minister Seymour Mullings told Parliament.

The JAMAICA RECORD newspaper reported this week that ministers were quietly nudging permanent secretaries to demand salary increases of up to 75 percent to J250,000 annually. Government ministers are paid one dollar a year more than permanent secretaries so the increase to the civil servants would also mean a big jump in ministerial pay, the RECORD claimed.

However, Mullings rejected the allegation and said that the pay increases for permanent secretaries and other civil servants had been "on the agenda for sometime." Permanent secretaries had made their own proposals on the hike they wanted, Mullings said.

The question of salary increases was on the agenda of a recent cabinet retreat, and the government was also looking at salary increases for back-benchers, Mullings confirmed. Mullings said that the former Edward Seaga administration had started to look at the public service salary issue and had made a first step in 1986 by narrowing the gap between civil servants and employees on state statutory bodies and state companies to 15 per cent. But the gap has since widened again, the minister said.

Mullings said that the poor pay in the civil service was causing skilled employees to leave at "an alarming rate." The problem had to be addressed "or one day we will wake up to discover that there are no nurses or doctors ... no lawyers to conduct the government's legal business, no trained or experienced personnel to discharge management functions in our ministries and departments."

President Vows To Continue Economic Growth Pact
PA0805180889 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish
2 May 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by Salvador Martinez Garcia]

[Text] "The government will prevent any action designed to break the Economic Growth and Stability Pact," President Salinas de Gortari told workers at the end of the Labor Day parade. The president said there will be changes in the country, but those changes will be made in an orderly manner and with respect for the people's rights, including freedom of expression, freedom of thought, freedom of movement, and the right to work. Salinas also said he will pursue the renegotiation of the foreign debt to the utmost.

After watching the workers parade for 3 and 1/2 hours from the central balcony of the National Palace, the chief executive said that yesterday, in the capital and all over the country, "thousands of workers freely expressed their proposals, requests, and demands."

After listening to a speech by Cecilio Salas Galvez, president of the Labor Congress, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari expressed sympathy with requests for an improved standard of living.

"Indeed, the goal of the government's policies is to reestablish the conditions for an economic recovery that will make the Mexican people's social rights a reality," he said.

President Salinas noted that yesterday the alliance between Mexican workers and the government was reaffirmed in order and peace, "because the Mexican workers are calling for change, but orderly change. Changes will be made to create a better Mexico in the framework of our basic principles."

The president also praised "the leaders of the country's organized labor movement, who have once again presented, expressed, and channeled the workers' demands within Mexico's legal system."

He also thanked the workers for their solidarity regarding the renegotiation of the foreign debt. He said: "Mexico's international creditors can now see that in our country there is firm unity regarding the demands that we have presented in the negotiations. We are avoiding confrontation but are acting firmly based on the unity the organized workers have reaffirmed today—a unity in support of the government's proposals to its international creditors."

The president said that in view of this unity and solidarity extended by the workers, "we will pursue renegotiation to the utmost in order to achieve lasting results for the benefit of our fellow countrymen."

He said there will be a firm, in-depth negotiation in which the government must act firmly to resume growth. He added, however, that this must be done fairly so that the most needy will benefit.

"Compatriots and working friends, we will respond to your demands for a better standard of living by achieving recovery without excessive price increases," the president said.

To this end, he particularly welcomed the workers' demand to continue and strengthen the Economic Growth and Stability Pact. "The workers demand that there be no excessive price increases, and therefore they want the pact to continue," he said.

The president said that this position on the part of the workers is wise, considering that in other countries, even on our continent, there is inflation of over 10,000 percent per year.

The president said that is why he understands and accepts the workers' demand. He added that the government will prevent any action that aims to break off the pact.

He emphasized that he has listened to the demands to make the Mexicans' social rights a reality. That is the essence of the revolution as is noted in our Constitution, he said.

At the beginning of his speech, the president said he was "greatly impressed" with the enormous strength of the organized labor movement that was demonstrated in the parade.

Foreign Secretary Reviews Foreign Policy Goals
PA0905003789 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish
3 May 89 pp 1-A, 27-A

[Article by Lourdes Galaz]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana yesterday said that "relations with our northern neighbor are good... but I would not dare say they are very good. We must understand that there will always be problems between a country like Mexico and the United States. The key is how we overcome those differences."

He added that the governments in Washington and Mexico City "have decided to solve problems through agreements, cooperation, and mutual respect." Solana recognized that, on certain occasions, minor U.S. officials acted arbitrarily, and the Mexican Foreign Secretariat sent the corresponding protest notes to the Department of State through our embassy in that country.

"It is not a matter of getting into a fight with Samson, but rather of discussing things clearly based on human rights and the defense of our fellow countrymen's interests in the neighboring country," he said.

Referring to Ambassador John Dimitri Negroponte's appointment, Solana declined to add any comment to that already issued by the Foreign Relations Secretariat.

He only said: "I believe he is a career diplomat. Mr Negroponte sought me out when I was in Washington (some weeks ago). I met him personally, and I hope we will be able to work well together the moment he arrives in Mexico. I have nothing else to add."

In addition, next week the foreign relations secretary will send the president of the republic a proposal on the new "Mexican strategy in Europe," which reviews Europe's complete economic integration scheduled for 1992.

Foreign Secretary Solana said that Mexican diplomacy in the EEC will be aimed at strengthening cooperation on Mexico's economic and social development, according to President Carlos Salinas' instructions.

The foreign secretary also reported that next November Abel Matute, EEC secretary for Latin America, will inaugurate an official EEC representation in Mexico and that our country has appointed Luis de Pablo to directly attend to EEC affairs in Brussels.

During a news conference, Solana Morales summarized the Foreign Relations Secretariat's activities during the first 5 and 1/2 months of the Salinas administration and added:

"I have instructions to carry out an active foreign policy that is nurtured by the principles that identify our policy in the world—diplomacy aimed at strengthening and safeguarding our national sovereignty. However, it will also be a foreign policy that supports the country's economic and social development."

Solana emphasized that, upon instructions from the Executive Branch, the Foreign Relations Secretariat will especially exert itself to defend the rights and interests of Mexicans living abroad, regardless of whether they have legal or illegal "status" in the country involved.

He stated that the Foreign Secretariat's overall actions will obviously seek to strengthen Mexico's image abroad and to strengthen international cooperation and Mexico's cooperation with the rest of the world.

During his opening statements prior to reporters' questions, Solana Morales mentioned the importance of the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat in international fora, such as the Group of Eight in Venezuela on the occasion of President Carlos Andres Perez' inauguration; the EEC foreign ministers meeting with the Group of Rio foreign ministers in Granada, Spain, where the main topic of the debate was the foreign debt and the world economic crisis; the San Pedro Sula (Honduras) meeting between the European and Central American foreign ministers; the country's participation in the Contadora Group; and other, bilateral agreements.

During his recent trip to Europe, the foreign relations secretary met with Spanish foreign affairs officials and reviewed bilateral relations.

Solana said relations between Mexico and Spain are vital, not only for historical and cultural reasons, but also from an economic perspective.

Spain is the most important buyer of Mexican oil, second only to the United States. In fact, sales to the peninsula are higher than those to Japan, he stated.

The foreign relations secretary announced that the two countries' authorities are currently working on an economic cooperation agreement that will allow and sponsor joint investments with Spanish and Mexican capital in both countries. "The agreement might even include some preferential Spanish financing for investments in Mexico," he revealed.

Solana Morales confirmed King Juan Carlos' visit to Mexico late this year.

The foreign relations secretary's statement and the question and answer period centered on interest about Mexico's relations with the EEC. He said that, until now, relations with the EEC have been formal and added that it is time we all understood that the EEC is becoming the world's most important market, even more important than the U.S. and Japanese markets. The EEC has become a group of countries with a definite weight, both in the economic and political sectors, "and Mexico must be there on time with an active strategy."

He warned that a strengthening period for world trade will begin in 1992, when the EEC is expected to be fully integrated.

"Mexico expects and hopes for this, but we must be alert because the market could close down later, during commercial negotiations, and that would be critical," he said. Still, he was optimistic in the sense that the EEC will represent opportunities for Mexican products and will become an investment-generating center for Latin America and our country and "can be as important as the U.S. and Japanese economies are now."

Nicaragua's Borge Meets With Authorities
FL0805160589 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2347 GMT 4 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 4 May (NOTIMEX)—The possibility of opening two Nicaraguan consulates, one in Tijuana and the other in Guadalajara, was studied by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge and local authorities.

The Sandinist commander, who arrived in Mexico on Tuesday on a 3-day official visit, met with Government Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios and Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana with whom, Borge said, he held fraternal talks.

In statements to the press, Borge said that his visit to Mexico is not linked to a specific situation, and he stressed that his trip is not related to Nicaragua's current political situation.

Interior Minister Borge held a solidarity meeting this morning with representatives of various Mexican organizations who expressed their support for the Sandinist revolutionary process. The meeting was held at the residence of Nicaraguan Ambassador to Mexico Rita Delia Casco.

During the meeting, Borge told the groups that they could ask the Mexican Government to send impartial observers to the Nicaraguan elections scheduled for February.

Likewise, Borge said the groups could also ask the Mexican Government to support a peaceful solution to the Central American problem and to protest, to the appropriate authorities, the policy of aggression used against the region.

The minister recalled that the Contadora Group was not created to generate solidarity for Nicaragua, but to protect the traditional Latin American democracies that emerged following the 1979 triumph of the Sandinist revolution.

At the conclusion of the solidarity event, Borge met privately with directors of the Mexican newspapers. Borge will hold more private meetings this afternoon and before his return to Nicaragua, which is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Predicts Sandinist Victory

FL0805160889 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 May 89

["Exclusive" interview with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge by Marta Canseco; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Borge] Ronald Reagan tried to destroy the Sandinist revolution; he failed. He promised to eliminate the Sandinist revolution before leaving office; however, he failed. President George Bush uses questionable and aggressive words, but I do not think that Bush has as many opportunities as Reagan did. Reagan had a belligerent counterrevolutionary army that was defeated by the revolution. The Esquipulas and San Salvador agreements were the result of this defeat.

[Canseco] Sir, could the participation of so many parties in the upcoming elections result in not having a clear winner? What chances does the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] have of winning the elections?

[Borge] The predictable percentage.... [changes thought] If all the rightist parties unite, they could get a good percentage of the vote, more or less, if they unite. If they

run alone, most of them will get an insignificant number of votes and of those parties that do get more votes, the number will still be very low. In any case, no matter if they run united or divided, most of the Nicaraguan people will vote for the FSLN.

Nicaragua has not abided by Esquipulas II because it has done more than it agreed to do. I was told that we have not adhered to the Esquipulas commitments. Of course not; we have done even more. We released the former Somozist guardsmen, amended the Electoral Law, amended the Media Law, and have moved up the date of the elections. We have done all that we were asked and more.

[Canseco] Thank you.

Fire Destroys Chamber of Deputies Building

*PA0505141089 Paris AFP in Spanish
1330 GMT 5 May 89*

[Text] Mexico City, 5 May (AFP)—Fire fighters have reported that the Federal Chamber of Deputies building was destroyed early this morning by a fire, the cause for which has yet to be determined. Mexico City Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis said that, according to initial reports, there were no casualties as a result of the fire.

The chamber's basement is the storage area for the vote tally sheets and records of the controversial 6 July presidential elections, the investigation of which was unsuccessfully requested by the opposition prior to President Carlos Salinas' 1 December inauguration. The opposition believed that there had been fraud in the vote count.

This morning, [words indistinct] continued there or if it had been destroyed by the fire. The San Larazo Palace—a modern building in the center of downtown Mexico City, where the 500 federal deputies normally hold sessions—was completely destroyed by the fire that began at 0300 (0900 GMT) and that was extinguished by 150 fire fighters 90 minutes later. The battle against the blaze was made difficult by a lack of water in the fire hydrants near the building. Tanker trucks had to be used instead.

Authorities Carry Out 'Major' Drug Raids

*PA0305183389 Mexico City XHTV Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 May 89*

[Report by Francisco Patino]

[Text] The Federal Judicial Police [FJP] in Guerrero and Nuevo Leon States struck major blows on international drug trafficking this weekend. The first action took place at the Guadalupe Ranch, Candela Municipality, Coahuila, where 14 persons were arrested and a ton of cocaine, which was already packaged and ready to be distributed, was seized.

The 600-billion peso seizure was accomplished thanks to investigations carried out in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, where several airport employees had been helping the drug traffickers by supplying them with [word indistinct].

The leader of the 14 suspects is Jesus Aviles Palma. Among the 14 persons arrested are Eduardo Aguilera, alias El Wizard, a civil aeronautics inspector at the Monterrey Airport, and Rafael Cortes Estrada, a Monterrey Airport employee who loaded small planes returning to Colombia.

The Attorney General Office's seized two ranches—the Guadalupe Ranch in Candela, Coahuila, and Valle Verde Ranch in Linares, Nuevo Leon—as well as a Cessna plane with registration number XBATZ. It also arrested one of the partners of El Grenas—namely, Rogelio Fernandez Aguilera, alias El Galan, who was captured in Acapulco, Guerrero. He had been wanted since last year, and two arrest warrants for him had been issued in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. The FJP seized 6 tons of marijuana from El Grenas and El Galan last February in Ciudad Juarez, but the FJP could not arrest them because they were not found at the site of the seizure.

In Nayarit, the FJP captured 11 drug traffickers in two operations. In the first, a teacher and five other people were detained with 6 kg of opium gum. In the second, the

police detained Jose Guadalupe Benitez Gonzalez, alias El Pillo, who had a heroin-processing lab in his home. The police seized 800 grams of heroin, eight rifles, three vehicles and 200 grams of marijuana. Four other presumed drug traffickers were also detained. In another operation this weekend, Miguel Angel Rico Urrea, Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo's top lieutenant, was detained in Mexico City. Rico Urrea, who was in a Providence Street apartment, had 50 kg of high-grade cocaine. The Attorney General's Office has reported that Rico Urrea, who had been wanted for more than 20 years, is responsible for masterminding the murder of Trevillo Lopez, a drug trafficker who dared to challenge him. Rico Urrea asked Felix Gallardo for permission to eliminate Lopez. Gallardo not only authorized the murder but ordered Arturo Moreno, then Sinaloa chief of police and currently in prison, to kill Lopez. Moreno had Lopez arrested and later, while the drug trafficker was being transferred from the police station to the Culiacan municipal prison, a policemen shot and killed Lopez. In addition to Rico Urrea, the police also detained Crescencio Lorenzo de la Cruz, Nicolas Posadas Posadas, Ramon Reina, and Crisanto Mendoza, Rico Urrea's partners.

Costa Rica

U.S. Presence at Panamanian Border Explained

PA0805140189 San Jose Radio Reloj
in Spanish 1251 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The Costa Rican Security Ministry yesterday clarified reports by Communist Deputy Humberto Vargas Carbonell regarding the presence of U.S. Army troops at farm 63 in the Coto area.

The U.S. Southern Command clarified they are U.S. engineers who are in the southern region carrying out social welfare and assistance work for the country.

It was also announced that the U.S. Government engineers will leave the country 17 May.

El Salvador

President-Elect Cristiani on Economic Plans

PA0905001389 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA
in Spanish 5 May 89 pp 3, 46

[Text] President-elect Alfredo Cristiani says the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government will favor only the neediest and the poor. All others, who have the means to promote development, must show solidarity with the poor to incorporate them into El Salvador's economic and social development, the president-elect added.

Cristiani made these statements to representatives of every production sector last night.

Cristiani said: As part of our government, which will be sworn in on 1 June 1989, we have to demonstrate to the Salvadoran people and the world that in El Salvador there are men like us who are prepared to extricate the country from the social chaos into which foreign forces have submerged it. As the persons responsible for this chapter of our country's history, we must serve the people. We must never use the people, because that is what frustrates the neediest. We must carry out a firm struggle to fight extreme poverty.

There are many ways to show solidarity with the neediest to incorporate them into the nation's productive life and allow them to rise above their poverty through their own honest work, Cristiani added. Our National Rescue Program clearly states those work ethics and the rules of the game for all Salvadorans, which will always be clear, he emphasized.

Cristiani added: My government's work program includes the establishment of fiscal and monetary discipline. The country has resources that must be used efficiently, the president-elect said, and we must spend on programs that help society as a whole.

We must work to increase the government's income without creating more taxes, he said, by expanding our tax base—that is, the taxpayers—by preventing tax evasion, and by fighting contraband.

Cristiani noted: The new government will also make every effort to promote the stability and strength of the Salvadoran colon, to regulate the economy, to increase productivity, and to eliminate the red tape that has become part of our daily life so we can have an economic and social resurgence.

We must strengthen the informal sector, he said. Officials must have decisionmaking powers to prevent biased decisions and to help bring back the Salvadoran people's ingenuity and desire for work, Cristiani stressed.

Privatization

It is important to emphasize that the privatization of the economy will be a reality. The present government has increasingly become involved in economic affairs. The government currently controls 60 percent of the economy. Therefore, the privatization that we will promote will be the cornerstone of national development.

We believe in a government that is strong, not large; its strength should derive from the Salvadoran people's support. We do not believe in continuing the system of having a large government, because it is like an octopus, intervening in everything that it cannot control, Cristiani said.

We will open up the economy both toward other countries and internally. The government must guarantee fair competition and avoid monopolies such as INCAFE [National Coffee Institute] and INAZUCAR [National Sugar Institute]. There must be no privileges for any group, but rather equal support and true incentives for all, the president-elect said.

Changes will be gradual but real, so that we can gradually adapt to the new rules of economic and social development. It is in this area that I emphasize, he said, that we all have to lean on each other, while always extending solidarity to the neediest, because they will be the only privileged people in my government. We will all extend solidarity to them; otherwise, we will be unable to provide for the well-being of those who have endured foreign aggression along with the rest of us and have repudiated that aggression by their vote at the polls on 19 March, he asserted.

All of the foregoing means that we are going to work together to achieve integrated development for the Salvadoran people. However, it is not the end in itself that counts, but instead the real work that we do for the Salvadoran people's benefit. In other words, what matters is the means that we develop to extend integrated

economic and social development to all Salvadorans, without class distinctions, but with priority attention paid to the most needy, the president-elect said in conclusion.

Ochoa Calls for Changes in War Strategy

PA0805192089 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA
in Spanish 4 May 89 pp 2, 21

[Text] Throughout this dirty war, which has no rules, fronts, or time limits, the Armed Forces have defended national sovereignty. But we cannot be subject to what Washington says. There must be changes in the strategy of the war.

The above statement was made yesterday during a news conference given by Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, vice president of the Legislative Assembly and a deputy of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA.

Sovereignty cannot be mortgaged; we must think of what is best for us as Salvadorans, because the Americans always think of what is best for them.

We asked Col Ochoa Perez if ARENA would continue receiving orders from the Americans on the war situation once ARENA takes over, inasmuch as ARENA is opposed to the way the current administration is handling the war.

The deputy emphatically replied that "it is true the Christian Democratic government committed a serious mistake that the Salvadoran people rejected at the polls. This mistake is the way it is handling the war. It has always followed foreign guidelines, and it has tied the Armed Forces to U.S. policy. [no end quotation marks as published]

The Armed Forces are following the political guidelines of the government in both operational and administrative aspects. Under no circumstances will ARENA accept an intervention of this nature. Ochoa emphasized: We have said there will be changes in the economic, social, and political fields, and we are not excluding the military field. We have been clear in this regard, and we are not going to tie ourselves to Washington's orders.

We feel that as we are a government elected by the sovereign will of the people, a government that has not been imposed by the United States, we have the moral foundation to tell the Americans that we can have friendly relations, we can be allies, but we will not be treated as if we were a colony. We Salvadorans deserve respect, and I am sure we will be respected, he emphasized.

We Salvadorans all know that the U.S. policy is ambivalent. The Americans think only of what is good for them, but they do not think of what is good for us. Then, what is left for us Salvadorans to do? As Salvadorans, we must think of what is good for Salvadorans. The Americans can go ahead and think of what is good for them,

but they should do so while always respecting our dignity as people. We have always defended their interests, but they have never been interested in Salvadoran interests, he added.

We then asked Col Ochoa Perez if ARENA would remain firm in its stand if the United States conditioned its assistance to our country to our compliance with its stance.

Ochoa Perez answered: "We will not accept any blackmail. We Salvadorans must define ourselves here. Either we run like cowards, or we defend our fatherland from Marxist-Leninist aggression. Sovereignty cannot be mortgaged. We hope these situations will not arise. We have talked with the Americans and explained our views concerning our ideas and the principle of our fatherland's sovereignty, which we are defending as a government and as a party. And we will not change our attitude," he added.

Throughout this dirty war, which has no rules, fronts, or time limits, the Armed Forces have defended national sovereignty. But we cannot be subject to what Washington says. There must be changes in the strategy of the war, said Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, vice president of the Legislative Assembly and ARENA deputy.

Ochoa, Zamora on FMLN Leaders' Visit to UN

PA0805194089 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 May 89

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Deputy and Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez today referred to the visas granted by the United States to an FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] delegation and said that the U.S. Administration favors Marxist policies with this type of measure. In referring to relations with the U.S. Administration, Col Ochoa said today, Wednesday, that the new Salvadoran Government should not be treated as a colony. He added that these should be friendly relations based on mutual respect.

[Ochoa] "As a government and a state, the United States can do whatever it pleases, but I do not think it is correct for the United States to pose an issue by talking with subversive elements. We believe that, as a sovereign government, we have the option of seeking the mechanisms favoring the achievement of peace—that is undeniable—but one cannot talk in demagogic terms about peace when an FMLN terrorist aggression is currently under way."

The retired colonel explained that, according to what was discussed during the campaign, Cristiani and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] must outline a policy that does not depend on U.S. interests.

Contrasting the visas that FMLN leaders were given to the denial of a visa to [Roberto] D'Aubuisson, Ochoa Perez said that U.S. policies unintentionally favor Marxism.

[Ochoa] "We hope the United States and George Bush do not [words indistinct] government but according to the people's will. They cannot establish a number of conditions beforehand. We hope Dr Cristiani's government remains within the established framework and abides by the people's will.

"We have stated that our sovereignty is mortgaged and that we will choose our own form of government. There are certain external factors that will obviously create a number of conditions for our government, but this does not mean we will act in accordance with a foreign power's mandates."

Asked about Jose Napoleon Duarte's role, Ochoa Perez said one must give credit where it is due. Duarte has made his contribution to a democratic process in El Salvador, and his government has created opportunities that even allowed the opposition's victory for a new administration.

Referring to the same topic, the Democratic Convergence [CD] reported that the FMLN delegation's trip to UN headquarters is the result of an invitation from the world organization to analyze the possible presence of an international peace-keeping force at this Central American country's border.

Dr Ruben Zamora announced today that the FMLN was invited to New York by the United Nations to discuss the problem of future verification of the Honduran-Salvadoran border by UN peace-keeping forces, including the highly volatile Chalatenango and northern Morazan Departments.

[Zamora] "Within this context [the United Nations] have requested a meeting to discuss terms with the FMLN, because it is a belligerent party in that geographic zone. This is a normal procedure that the United Nations follows every time the blue helmets or military observers are sent to a geographic zone.

"They cannot be there if the parties involved do not agree, because the party not in agreement could fire at them, and their mission would be useless. Consequently, I believe the situation is very clear. The tendency at the global level is to achieve political solutions."

In addition, Dr Zamora denied that the FMLN has plans to ask the United Nations to mediate in EL Salvador's armed conflict and possibly achieve a dialogue between the FMLN and Alfredo Cristiani's upcoming administration, as has been speculated in the country.

[Zamora] "I believe the United Nations is very careful in these cases, and it will simply abide by its charter, meaning the sending of an observation force to the zone and the

seeking of terms for an agreement with the FMLN as a military force. Nevertheless, I believe that, even though no specific initiatives will be issued, this is a clear message to Cristiani's future administration. The message is: Look, do not remain isolated from the world, stubbornly refusing to negotiate and seek a political solution."

Zamora added that the CD will continue its active political role in the country, and it will assume the leadership of the opposition to Alredo Cristiani's upcoming administration. Zamora said that he, Dr [Reni] Roldan, and [Guillermo] Ungo have no plans to leave the country.

Mine Kills 4, Wounds 23 in La Paz Department
PA0805143489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 May 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] Four persons were killed and 23 wounded today by a mine in La Herradura Jurisdiction, La Paz Department. The tragedy occurred in San Luis La Zorra Canton, where residents accidentally set off the mine when they tried to remove a sign left by guerrillas last night. William Heriberto Gonzalez, 8, Victor Manuel, 15, Milton Rodalte Gonzalez, 16, and Maria Concepcion Orellana, 21, were killed by the explosion.

Guatemala

Honduran Radio Cites 'Reports' of Coup Attempt
PA0905125489 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1242 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] We have learned that there is talk of a coup in Guatemala. So far it is not known who is responsible for this blow against democracy in Guatemala. People who have spoken over the telephone from Guatemala City with Voz de Honduras have told us that there are reports in Guatemala about a coup d'etat that reportedly occurred early this morning. Guatemalan Air Force planes are flying over the Guatemalan capital. To date there are no exact reports on the situation. It has been established that Guatemalan Air Force planes are flying over various parts of Guatemala City.

Reports Coup 'Neutralized'
PA0905132889 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1250 GMT 9 May 89

[Telephone report by reporter Edgar Arcila from Guatemala City—live]

[Text] There was a new attempted military rebellion this morning in Guatemala. The military regiment apparently involved in the rebellion was the Tactical Group. According to our information, however, the rebellion has been neutralized by loyal Army forces. At this time radio

stations are no longer in network and have been allowed to broadcast their regular programs, because the attempted military rebellion has been neutralized.

Lack of Troop Movement Noted

PA0905132189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1258 GMT
9 May 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 May (EFE)—The Guatemalan people woke up today to a surprising radio and television network through which an announcer, who is not the usual Radio Nacional announcer, asked the population "to remain calm."

The announcer did not specify the reason for the request, so a wave of rumors immediately spread through the country.

The network ended at 0645 (1245 GMT), as strangely as it started, when the radio and television stations were told they could return to their regular programming.

Thus far, the EFE correspondents in Guatemala have not observed anything strange in Guatemala City or any troop movements, as the rumors indicated.

More on Coup 'Rumors'

PA0905132089 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras
Unidas in Spanish 1305 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] There is confusion in Guatemala City. Rumors of a coup have been circulating in this capital since early today. Unfortunately, there is no one at the national palace who will report what is happening.

Military vehicles have been circulating in Guatemala City, and airplanes have been flying over the capital since early this morning. The various military units are staying in their installations. For the time being there is no official information on what is happening.

It is only known that early today a military unit seized the installations of Radio Nacional. A young officer ordered the establishment of a national network, which ended at 0700. Radio stations have continued with their normal programs. Confusion reigns in the country's political arena.

'Executive Branch' Calls Meeting

PA0905134189 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras
Unidas in Spanish 1320 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Guatemala's ministers and deputies have been called this morning to an emergency meeting. The Executive Branch called the officials to an emergency meeting as a result of this morning's abnormal military movements. The congressional leadership has summoned the representatives of all political parties because of the rumors that began very early this morning. The ministers have been called to the Presidential Palace, while the deputies were called to the Congress.

Situation 'Under Control'

PA0905134589 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras
Unidas in Spanish 1329 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] It was officially reported this morning that there was an attempted coup. According to Carlos Anleu, assistant presidential public relations secretary, the abnormal military movements early today were caused by an attempted coup. Fortunately, he said, everything is under control, and calm has returned. The constitutional government continues to function, he added.

The assistant presidential public relations secretary said that a communique will soon be issued to explain this morning's events to the people.

Soldiers Under Arrest

PA0905141989 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras
Unidas in Spanish 1356 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] It was officially announced a few minutes ago that the soldiers who participated in today's foiled coup have already been arrested.

It has also been reported that the house where [Defense Minister] General Gramajo lives is under heavy guard by Army troops who are armed with large-caliber weapons. About 15 minutes ago, a Guatemalan Air Force plane was still flying over the capital.

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1359 GMT on 9 May adds that retired military men as well as civilians are among those arrested for involvement in the coup attempt]

Coup Leaders Want Resignations

PA0905143489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1405 GMT
9 May 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 May (AFP)—According to unofficial preliminary reports, a military rebellion took place in Guatemala this morning. The coup leaders are demanding the resignation of Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo and Government Minister [title as received] Roberto Valle Valdizan.

Air Force helicopters and fighter planes this morning flew over the Guatemalan capital. It appears the coup is aimed at two ministers of Christian Democratic President Vinicio Cerezo.

The Guatemalan media was forced to join a national network this morning. No official report on the coup has yet been issued.

Government Issues Statement

PA0905144989 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1420 GMT 9 May 89

[Statement issued by the Government in Guatemala City on 9 May; read by Presidential Public Relations Secretary Claudia Arenas—live]

[Text] The Guatemalan Government wishes to inform the Guatemalan people that a group of retired officers and other people who will be identified later carried out an act of insubordination at the Air Force Tactical Group. Their aim was to disrupt the constitutional order.

The Guatemalan Army has brought the situation under control and arrested the instigators of the movement. The president asks the Guatemalan people to remain calm and ready to support their democratic institutions.

Later, at 1000, the details of the uprising will be outlined in a radio and television network.

Loyal Troops Occupy Installations

PA0905153189 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1452 GMT 9 May 89

[Live report by Carlos Angulo Marroquin from the Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise in Guatemala City]

[Text] [Angulo] Army troops have occupied the installations of GUATEL [Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise] and of the General Postal Directorate. Hundreds of employees are outside in the street. The employees say they were told that they should return home and that the institutions were now under the control of Army troops loyal to President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo. These troops put down a coup attempt this morning by members of the Air Force Tactical Group.

We see that the troops loyal to President Cerezo's government are wearing light blue scarves. We are going to talk with one of the GUATEL employees, who will give us more details about why the employees were not allowed to enter the installations.

[GUATEL employee] Good morning, radio listeners. When we reported to work this morning, members of the National Army blocked our way. They did not say what unit they belong to, but they are wearing light blue and white scarves that identify them as members of the group that prevented the attempted coup.

Ten minutes ago, the management told us to go home. They said we might be able to return tomorrow, but apparently for today, GUATEL and post office employees will not be allowed to enter their workplaces.

[Angulo] Radio listeners, that was a statement by an employee of GUATEL, whose installations are being controlled by military troops today. During our tour, we also noticed that businesses are beginning to open. Many people are talking about the abortive coup, which was put down by troops loyal to President Cerezo. We also noticed that the National Printing Office is heavily guarded by Army troops.

URNG on Government Corruption, Human Rights

FL0805193789 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 May 89 p 3

["Manifesto" issued by the URNG (Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity) General Command to "peoples' organizations, political parties, professional and student movements, businessmen, prominent persons, and Christian, democratic, popular, progressive and patriotic sectors"—date and place not given]

[Text] In October 1987, the URNG General Command issued a Political Plan for National Salvation in which it expressed its intention to participate in the search for a political solution to the armed conflict and a way out of the national crisis. At the same time, the top echelons of the Army, under the guise of a so-called Plan for Economic Reorganization, implemented a sophisticated counterinsurgency plan by announcing decisive offensive actions against the revolutionary guerrilla movement.

The goals of the URNG General Command's plan were outlined by our delegation at the talks held in Madrid on 27 October 1987.

Nevertheless, the situation in our country continues and has deteriorated sharply, and what we forecast in our plan has come about with even greater force.

The economic crisis has deepened; poverty is dealing even more devastating blows to our people; and the decomposition of society is a source of concern for all Guatemalans.

Heightened repression and the violation of human rights continues to make our country a source of international concern, and the war is growing fiercer due to covert military interference by the United States.

Government corruption is rife and has become uncontrollable. Profit is being made from the sale of children's organs and from drugs, public posts, budgets, humanitarian aid, arms purchases, and state documents.

We address you because we are all aware that Guatemala is at a difficult crossroads, characterized by the failure of the plan drawn up by the government and those who give it support and assistance.

[Guatemalan President] Cerezo and his demagogic populism are out of control and, objectively speaking, have no chance of reversing themselves.

On the international front, where Cerezo had intended to gain ground, his actions and his standing have descended to the second or third levels. His "active neutrality" policy has not been upheld. He even admits (in the 3 April issue of VISION magazine) that, in accordance with U.S. Government strategy, he has helped to pressure and plot against Nicaragua and Panama.

The early launching of the election campaign is closely linked to the failure of the Cerezo government's plan. The premature dispute over presidential succession is designed to achieve a political realignment that will favor the large traditional interest groups, halt satisfaction of the people's legitimate demands, and leave up to the next administration the search for a solution to the national situation. Even the Army has postponed its military victories until the next administration because it has been unable to achieve any yet. Cerezo hardly governs any more.

A realignment to the right is being attempted: There will be a counterinsurgency program that, instead of being based on a program of social benefits, will be based on the privatization of state-owned companies that are a cornerstone of national development. This is being done to attract the reluctant sectors of the oligarchy and to get all the sectors of the Army to agree on a new counterinsurgency strategy that will result in greater sacrifice of the masses' interests and sacrifices by businessmen, other productive sectors, and the people in general.

The well-known differences within the Christian Democratic Party reveal the inconsistency of the ruling party and its political and organizational weaknesses.

The military's growing political participation in the affairs of state, and in other affairs, by working with political sectors is being used mainly to devise, strengthen, and make feasible a new, alternative counterinsurgency plan.

Within this situation a political vacuum is definitely being created.

The democratic, popular, progressive, patriotic, and revolutionary sectors can and must fill this vacuum with new outlooks and with proposals that respond to the needs, potentials, and strengths of the sectors they represent, so as to forge a real alternative through joint action.

For its part, the URNG has made large and important strides in military and political development over the past 3 years.

This has been possible because the URNG proposals are rational and just; because the URNG represents the active forces of Guatemala and shares the aspirations of other Guatemalan sectors; and because the URNG's

military, subjected to the most arduous tests, has demonstrated with its fighting spirit and its operational ability that it cannot be destroyed and that it has the potential and capability to develop further and achieve victory.

At the same time, objectively and demonstrating flexibility, we propose that a dialogue between the URNG and the government, a great national dialogue, and the setting up of a vast alliance of political, patriotic, popular, progressive, and revolutionary forces are specific and indispensable steps to begin a true process of pacification and to boost democracy in the country.

We believe that these measures are needed if we are to eradicate the causes of our people's conflicts and suffering and draft a development plan based on our vital needs, social justice, and reality.

Our past and current proposals fall within the framework of the Esquipulas II agreement signed by the Central American presidents.

It is timely to recall these proposals and to call for reflection on them, because the current anarchy calls for an effort by all.

Cerezo's most recent public statements reveal how distraught he is. He appealed for international help to defend democracy in Guatemala in the face of a coup, although he is aware, more than anyone else, that there is no democracy in Guatemala and that it is no longer necessary to stage a coup. A mere threat is all that is needed to get the government to yield to demands.

Cerezo recently and surprisingly stated that the United States will lose a valuable ally in Central America if it does not increase military aid to Guatemala without demanding respect for human rights as a prerequisite.

One can therefore conclude that the independence and active neutrality that Cerezo so loudly proclaimed is nonexistent.

This action also reveals the Army's inability to obtain [obtainer] [as published] the URNG's military development, and that the Guatemalan Government has no desire to respect human rights, an international obligation that it has to the United Nations.

Cerezo's statements also keep under wraps the growing militarization of the state and the covert participation of U.S. military forces in Guatemala's internal conflict so that this will not become an issue in the U.S. Congress. The statements also cover up the military assistance and advice that the Army is receiving from Taiwan.

What we are facing in Guatemala—and it is intended that we should accept it as a fait accompli—is the covert use of U.S. technicians, advisers, fighters, and resources in the internal war under way in our country.

In Guatemala, joint military exercises are conducted with troops from the U.S. bases in the Panama Canal area. The working visits to the areas in conflict by General Woerner, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, are known to all, as are the deliveries made by the U.S. Navy's logistical support vessel "USS Sphinx" to the Pacific Naval Base and the airbridges set up to take supplies and troops to the areas in conflict. These airbridges are set up with Chinook (CH-47) helicopters and gigantic C-130 military cargo planes.

Therefore, in addition to the economic crisis, administrative corruption, the uncontrolled violation of human rights and denial of the right to life, repression in all its forms, and moral and spiritual degradation, the people of Guatemala are now facing direct military interference by U.S. military troops.

In reality, we have entered a new phase of the struggle against the forces that oppress, exploit, and discriminate against the Guatemalan people.

Faced with this situation, the URNG General Command:

Reiterates its willingness and determination to seek a political solution to the internal war through a dialogue with the government or with the political forces and all the democratic, popular, national, and patriotic sectors;

Believes it is timely and necessary to call on everyone to redouble their efforts to increase the denunciation of the outrages and the violations of human rights that take place in our country;

Resolves to struggle for and to demand respect and fulfillment of the interests of all sectors of the Guatemalan people at all the forums and with all the means within its reach;

Demands the fulfillment of the commitments made in the Esquipulas II agreement as a contribution to peace in Guatemala and Central America, and that the government halt its collaboration with the United States—which wants to force Nicaragua to renounce its right to self-determination—and instead fulfill its commitments to Guatemala.

Honduras

Salvador's Cristiani Holds News Conference

FL0805125989 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network
in Spanish 1611 GMT 4 May 89

[News conference by Salvadoran President-elect Alfredo Cristiani and unidentified reporters at Government House in Tegucigalpa—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Reporter] ...for peace.

[Cristiani] President Duarte has not had the luck of striking a responsive chord in the Salvadoran Marxist guerrillas. We hope that with new efforts and with the participation of Salvadoran political forces we [words indistinct] peace. We also believe it is necessary for the Salvadoran conflict to be seen in its full dimension: It is part of a regional problem, and, consequently, the [Central American] presidents have discussed the subject of this internal conflict at their meetings.

[Reporter] I have a question on bilateral relations. Will your government respect the ruling by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague regarding the demarcation of the border with Honduras?

[Cristiani] We are going to continue to respect the agreements between the two countries. We believe that we must begin to resolve all the differences that our two countries may have had as soon as possible. This is one of the things that we have mentioned to President Azcona. Contrary to what some people may have said, we believe that we must seek a solution to the problems between our two countries as soon as possible and continue improving a relationship that had been suspended.

We are going to respect the peace process that is already under way between the two countries, as well as the agreement to take the matter to the ICJ for resolution.

[Reporter] International reports state that violence has increased in El Salvador since your party won the elections. I would like to ask if you (?tried to contact) the guerrillas prior to the elections or are you going to wait for the situation to deteriorate even further? [words indistinct] take power?

[Cristiani] The Marxist guerrilla movement in El Salvador has publicly admitted that it is increasing its terrorist actions in our country in an attempt to destabilize the new government. We have not generated any violence; I believe the victory of our party in the recent elections did not represent more violence. Vice President-elect Merino headed the delegation that met with the Salvadoran guerrillas in Mexico, and from the very beginning we have expressed our willingness to seek, via a dialogue, a solution to our conflict.

Naturally, we cannot yet act as a government, and we are going to respect the current government's relationship with the guerrillas. Once our administration is in place, we will continue to make the greatest effort to seek a dialogue and a solution.

[Reporter] Are you planning to ask the United States for an increase in economic and military aid?

[Cristiani] No. During our recent trip to Washington, all we said is that we trust that the U.S. Government and people are in favor of the strengthening of democracy in El Salvador. On this occasion we benefitted from the

democratic process, but this should not generate, a priori, any prejudice against the new Salvadoran Government that could result in a modification of U.S. aid to our country.

We have not asked for any increase in aid. We believe that we should develop ourselves and have El Salvador become self-supporting. We hope that with the help of the Lord we will achieve this [words indistinct] not because we do not want to maintain our friendship, but because we believe that El Salvador can become self-supporting.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] Frankly, I was surprised by this statement by Daniel Ortega. I do not know what he has based his opinion on. I do not know if this is the result of meetings that he might have had with the members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] who have just returned from Nicaragua. However, as we have just reiterated, our intention is to continue with the efforts that have been under way since Esquipulas II was signed, and to seek democracy and peace in Central America by means of a joint effort by our countries.

[Reporter] It has been confirmed that the next summit of Central American presidents will be held in our country in June. You are slated to attend because you will be inaugurated on 1 June. What position will El Salvador take at the meeting, and to what extent has your government complied with the Costa Del Sol agreements?

[Cristiani] Our government, as you have just pointed out, will be inaugurated on 1 June, so we have not yet been able to comply with anything [Cristiani chuckles].

In reality, the Costa del Sol agreement was aimed at creating a democratic opening in Nicaragua so the Nicaraguan contras could return and resume their lives there. [words indistinct] We have been observing the advances of the democratic process that Daniel Ortega pledged to carry out at Costa del Sol, and we will remain vigilant to ensure that the promise of a democratic opening is fulfilled.

All that El Salvador was tasked with is collaborating with the other countries to seek mechanisms to bring about the voluntary repatriation or voluntary demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras, once the Sandinist government had complied with its part.

[Reporter] Please tell us what you discussed with President Azcona, and if your administration is going to implement an effective plan to repatriate Salvadoran refugees.

[Cristiani] In the first place, we discussed the presidential summit meeting. Because my government will be inaugurated on 1 June, we wanted to discuss the possibility of postponing the meeting to early July to give us 30 days, more or less, to begin our administration.

Second, we wanted to express the desire to increasingly strengthen the bonds between our countries. We believe that there is a lot of room for improvement, and we are willing to cooperate in the search for ways to accomplish this. We also discussed the Central American situation and the current state of affairs in general terms.

Regarding the refugees, we have already held several meetings to discuss the repatriation of Salvadoran refugees and on ways to reincorporate them into the nation economically, politically, and socially. We believe that great steps can be taken, and we will try to obtain the necessary funds to try to make this a reality in the future.

[Reporter] In your opinion, where is the bottleneck that is delaying peace in the region? Is it in Nicaragua, with its new regime and new ideology, or is it in El Salvador, where an internal armed conflict has been under way for more than 10 years?

[Cristiani] Well, I feel that in some way the Salvadoran conflict receives its impetus and its support from foreign countries. One of those is Nicaragua itself. The Nicaraguan Government has been helping the Salvadoran guerrillas and this makes a domestic solution more difficult.

I believe, and this is my personal opinion, that a greater bottleneck is created by the fact that we must seek a relationship of nonintervention between Nicaragua and El Salvador. In this area, Nicaragua, especially in the past, has had a lot to do with events in El Salvador, regardless of any other problems that might have existed. I believe that if we could uphold Esquipulas II and get Nicaragua and Cuba to stop sending aid to the rebels this would facilitate an agreement with the Salvadoran guerrillas and would bring an end to the conflict in El Salvador.

[Reporter] This question is on a topic of great interest to the Honduran people: Certain Salvadoran Foreign Ministry officials have taken for granted that certain territories that are in dispute in the Gulf of Fonseca belong to El Salvador. Here in our country these statements are considered premature and irresponsible. What can you tell us in this regard?

[Cristiani] As I mentioned earlier, we are going to abide by the ICJ's ruling. We have to wait for this ruling, which the two countries agreed to seek. Our belief is that the ICJ ruling will be valid.

[Reporter] A U.S. Government official has said that new aid to El Salvador, and particularly to your government, should be granted only if you are willing to respect human rights. What do you think about this?

[Cristiani] During our visit to the United States, we were told that the requirements for U.S. aid would be the same as always, no more, no less. The linking of aid to respect for human rights is not a new requirement. Its

link to a commitment to maintain a democratic process in El Salvador is not new either. These conditions have existed since the U.S. began to provide aid, and they will continue.

There is some concern—not in the U.S. Administration, I would say, but among some U.S. senators and congressmen—but in general they would be willing [words indistinct]. Our government will continue the efforts to make sure that respect for human rights as well as the consolidation of democracy will continue in El Salvador.

[Reporter] After this meeting with President Azcona, are you going to visit other Central American countries, for example, Nicaragua?

[Cristiani] For the time being, the only trip that has been agreed upon is a visit to Costa Rica tomorrow.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cristiani] I believe that the agreement between the two countries has already met all the requirements in El Salvador. As I said earlier, all that we have to do now is to wait for the agreed upon process to run its course and then the border problem will be resolved.

[Reporter] There are only 10 days left before the 90-day deadline agreed upon at Costa del Sol expires. During this period, a plan was to have been drawn up to demobilize the Nicaraguan contras. Apparently no plan has been drawn up. How do you view this?

[Cristiani] I believe that more time is going to be available to prepare the plan. The presidential summit meeting has been postponed for at least 30 days, so there will be more time to work on the plan. Many times deadlines become a problem because these are not easy topics to deal with. What is important is that an effort is being made to comply with the agreements. If it takes 10 or 30 more days this should not be a problem. There would be a problem if the effort were discontinued, but I believe work is continuing. Although we are not yet in power, we have had reports that the countries have been meeting and have been trying to find solutions.

[Reporter] You visited Washington recently. What do you think of President Bush's Central American policy? For some it is just a continuation—a bit more moderate perhaps—of President Reagan's policy. Regarding the Central American president's peace plan, do you think the Bush administration will support it? And on another issue: What do you think of the impression that you are always standing in Major D'Aubuisson's shadow?

[Cristiani] First, I believe that the Bush administration's policy on Central America is still not very clear. What I find somewhat positive is that bipartisan agreements are being sought to formulate this policy. This should make the policy more constant, more consistent, and not as uneven as it has been in the past. I believe that the Bush

administration will logically seek to adjust to the situation, and I trust that the most likely thing to happen is that the United States will support the Central American presidents' policy.

Regarding your second question, I would only like to say that Major D'Aubuisson is the founder of the party, continues to work in the party, and—as he has said—will continue to work in the Legislative Assembly, to which he has been elected. He continues to be a member of the party, but I am not in his shadow.

[Reporter] How can the contras return to Nicaragua if there is no dialogue between the government and the contras?

[Cristiani] I believe that this will be difficult. I believe that an effort should be made for the two parties to get together and reach an agreement. This would make things much easier.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cristiani] [Words indistinct]

Assembly Ratifies USSR Trade Agreement

FL0805170189 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO
in Spanish 5 May 89 p 4

[Text] The National Assembly has ratified the trade agreement signed by the Honduran and Soviet Governments on 22 August 1987.

According to the agreement, reciprocal assistance will be provided during each country's participation in the other's trade fairs.

The agreement states that the Soviet Union is in a position to sell Honduras cars, trucks, motorcycles, motorbikes, bicycles, tractors, machinery, tools, tires, chemical products, storage tanks for liquids and gases, and medical equipment and instruments, among other products.

For its part, Honduras is in a position to export coffee, sugar, bananas, lumber, tobacco, beans, rice, cotton, and other items to the Soviet Union.

Economy and Commerce Ministry officials feel that this trade agreement will benefit Honduras because it opens a new export market for the country.

New Finance, Public Credit Minister Appointed

FL0805192189 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA
in Spanish 6 May 89 p 28

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Carlos Falck, the Presidency's controversial economic adviser, was appointed minister of finance and public credit yesterday. Falck replaces Jose Efraim Bu Giron, who resigned to run for Congress.

According to a Presidential Palace source, Honduran President Jose Azcona told Falck yesterday afternoon that he would be the new minister of finance and public credit.

As established in the Electoral Law, Bu Giron must resign from his government position if he wishes to run for a seat in the National Congress to represent Santa Barbara Department, where he is considered a Liberal Party leader.

According to information obtained by Radio America, Carlos Falck's appointment could create some problems because there are differences between Falck and high-ranking government officials who handle the country's economic affairs.

The radio station recalled that on many occasions they have reported on the battle between Falck and Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias, who opposes a devaluation of the lempira.

The source added that in light of these problems, Falck's appointment could create economic problems for the current government and the country.

The same source said that many economists feel that Falck is not the best person to replace Jose Efraim Bu Giron, who handled himself very well while he was minister of finance and public credit.

Nicaragua

Ruiz Leaves for Cuba; Praises Cooperation

PA0505142089 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 May 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Foreign Cooperation Minister Commander Henry Ruiz said the Cuban people's cooperation has been vital to the Nicaraguan revolution. He said this before departing for Cuba, where he will assess relations between the two countries throughout 10 years of revolution.

[Ruiz] "The major acknowledgment we can make of these past 10 years is Cuba's presence as an independent country and people. Moreover, based on the concept of solidarity Cuba has taught us, I always remember Raul Castro's words when one hurricane struck. He said: Between two poor countries, when there is half a loaf of bread, one-fourth of that loaf goes to the brother country."

Ruiz said Cuba has cooperated in major development programs such as the Matagalpa-Rosita Highway, which linked the Atlantic and Pacific areas. Cuba also donated the Victoria de Julio project. In addition, we can mention infrastructure plants, maintenance of energy plants,

and Cuba's excusing our debt. In the health field, medical brigades and donations arrived with the triumph of the revolution. In the education field, Cuba's contribution was extraordinary. For the literacy crusade, 1,500 Cuban teachers arrived, and that number later grew. At present, 2,000 Nicaraguan youths are being trained in various learning centers in Cuba.

[Education Minister Fernando Cardenal] "This aid was not only important because of the number of people involved, but because of the circumstances under which these teachers arrived. They came without conditions, without salaries, and without their families. They went everywhere in Nicaragua."

A few hours after Hurricane Joan struck, Cuba's support was the first to arrive.

[Commander Lumberto Campell, minister-delegate of Special Region 2] "We are building housing units. The work has progressed a lot. The first 34 housing units have already been built. We believe 100 housing units will be completed by the end of June."

These 10 years of cooperation will be reviewed by the Cuba-Nicaragua Joint Commission in Havana. Commander Ruiz left today as the head of a delegation that comprised ministers and vice ministers of different fields.

Nunez Interviewed on Election Campaign

PA0505161489 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 1 May 89 pp 5, 6

[Interview with Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, National Assembly President, by Edgard Barberena S.; date and place not given]

[Text] Barberena: Commander Nunez, a number of forces are preparing to contend with the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] in the Nicaraguan election campaign. What have you to say?

Nunez: These elections, and particularly the election campaign, will be unique. Five years have passed since the 1984 elections, and important events have occurred during this period. The Esquipulas accords were signed, the San Jose summit was held, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez assumed office, the Central American presidents issued a joint statement in San Salvador, the Reagan administration's policy in Central America failed, the counterrevolutionaries were defeated in their attempt to achieve power through the use of arms, and the civic alternatives in Nicaragua's interior to consolidate democracy were strengthened. This is evident by the existence of 12 legally registered political parties and the fact that 10 other political organizations have requested legal status.

This is just another of the challenges the FSLN has had to meet in the course of its struggle. Nevertheless, we cannot yet guarantee that all the current political forces will participate in the elections. We hope they will not repeat the mistake of 1984. Anyway, we, the Sandinists, are marshaling all our forces to participate in the elections.

Barberena: Commander, you recently told reporters that the FSLN is prepared to confront any political force. You even said you are convinced the FSLN will win. Would you please expand on this?

Nunez: Yes, I did say that, and I was not being rhetorical. I repeat that the FSLN will win the 25 February 1990 elections. I base this assertion on the following:

First, our organization is different from traditional parties because of its serious platform, which has not been prepared merely as an election instrument. Second, our party's structure, development, and experience date back not to 1979, but to 1961. We intended all the time to organize ourselves on a nationwide basis. Consequently, we have a national leadership and regional and municipal organizations in the farthest reaches of the country. Therefore, we can participate in the election battle throughout the national territory against all parties, either individually or as part of alliances.

I would like to point out, however, that the FSLN and each of its members have remained united with the people in victory, defeat, happiness, and suffering throughout 10 years of revolution on the instructions of the National Directorate and as a result of the FSLN's own experience.

This represents prestige for the FSLN, a direct bond with the people, an awareness of the existing problems, and daily discussion of the various ways to solve those problems. In short, this represents a broad social foundation that not only supports the FSLN, but supports and defends the revolution as well.

This is why I assert, first, that the FSLN will participate in all forms of elections stipulated by the Electoral Law and its recently approved amendments and, second, that the FSLN will be the sure winner in the elections. I say this not only because I believe it, but because, as I said before, the FSLN is different from all other Nicaraguan parties. In addition to its charisma, the party has an iron discipline. Its application of revolutionary principles is consistent and, above all, its platform is well defined and based on a powerful objective—to preserve and defend the achievements of the revolution. Our main goal, to achieve peace in Nicaragua, has almost been fulfilled.

Barberena: How would you define the democracy being practiced in Nicaragua? Several political sectors have accused the FSLN of trying to impose Marxist ideas. Others, who say they are moderate, have said they are seeking to establish a Western model. We would like to learn your opinion.

Dual Democracy

Nunez: This question has two answers. The first is a definition of democracy and how it is practiced in Nicaragua. I define democracy in Nicaragua as dual in nature. On the one hand, it is a participatory democracy; on the other, it is representative.

When I say participatory democracy I am alluding to the historic achievements our people realized by toppling the dictatorship, their active participation in the discussion and solution of many of the revolution's problems, and their participation in discussions of their own achievements in the fields of defense, politics, economy, and social issues.

Our democracy is also a representative democracy, because in Nicaragua there has been a revolution that created its own institutions that represent and favor the interests of all groups forming our society. In other words, the revolution has rightfully consolidated. Evidence of this is the legal organization that has not yet been finished but that the revolution has been carrying out since 1979, and the people's participation in their own people's organizations.

Now, we will answer all the political groups that accuse the FSLN of trying to impose Marxist political schemes and others who say we are moderates. For us, these types of definitions are not a matter of principle; for me, Sandinism is a revolutionary theory containing three aspects:

First, the world revolutionary theory. We consider Marxism a science that should be studied, learned, and assimilated by the Sandinist militants and all Nicaraguan society, which also has a right to study and learn it. It cannot be ignored, nor can we fall into the practice of witch hunting, as Somoza did. In reaction to any protest, Somoza accused us in a derogatory manner of being communists and said Marxism-Leninism was not a science, but an exotic theory.

Sandinism's Historic Legacy

The second legacy of Sandinism as a revolutionary theory is Sandino's political, historical legacy, which was rediscovered by Carlos Fonseca. It constitutes the foundation of our Historic Plan and, of course, our struggle.

Third is the triumphant revolution's contribution, which consisted of making Sandino's political-military legacy and his Historic Plan a current reality: The Sandinist People's Revolution.

We Are Sandinists

That is why, when we are asked if we are Marxists, social democrats, or moderates, we answer: We are Sandinists. Marxism continually changes and becomes richer; that is

our way of thinking. Those who describe us as Marxists-Leninists should, in any case, consider that we have not fallen prey to orthodoxy or zealotry. Instead, we have used Nicaragua's experience and reality to design a new political system. We use Marxism creatively.

The issue is not whether we are Marxists or not, or whether we want to impose a Marxist system or not, because in modern times we cannot claim the existence of perfect, yet similar, socioeconomic models, even if they are all based on Marxism. The Cuban and Soviet models are not identical; the systems in the GDR, DPRK, Romania, and Hungary are not the same. Proof of this is that there is controversy over perestroika; everyone has his own ideas regarding the manner in which these socioeconomic models should be transformed and perfected.

Our socioeconomic model does not try to be like the Cuban, Soviet, or any other socialist country's model. It does not try to be like the Western countries, either. As I said at the beginning, it is based on international experience, taking the best from the other democratic processes of the world and keeping in mind our own historic situation. We have created a model that is established in Article 5 of the Constitution: political pluralism, mixed economy, and nonalignment. Furthermore, I dare state that it is this type of socioeconomic model that is precisely Nicaragua's contribution to the world revolution. If the Salvadoran comrades were to triumph in their country, they would have to organize a very different model, according to the conditions of their country. Perhaps it would entail some elements of the Nicaraguan model, but it would never be similar to ours.

Barberena: Commander, how would you define the various opposition ideologies? Do you believe they could put up a fight against the Sandinist Front when the election campaign begins?

Nunez: I believe the opposition could put up a fight if the various opposition groups are able to present a program to the Nicaraguan people—a program that is duly understood by their followers—and if they succeed in joining forces, especially among those groups sharing similarities, such as the Conservative, Liberal, and Social Christian ideologies, to mention three examples.

Our main experience and the biggest lesson we learned during our struggle against the dictatorship is precisely that unity begets strength. If all the opposition parties and groups that share ideological similarities learn how to join forces, I believe they would be in a better position to face the Sandinist Front. They would have more possibilities. It will not be the same if they go to the elections separately. I am not saying, however, that being able to battle the Sandinist Front means being able to defeat it.

I almost forget to say something else. The opposition could also put up a fight if it can get and keep the support of a large number of people. That is a basic point the opposition has neglected. Perhaps that has been their strategic error. In the same way that people do not forget who their murderers are, they surely and very clearly know the political parties that helped them during difficult times and the parties that ignored their pain and suffering. Let us see whether the people now support the latter. I believe people will not support them.

Barberena: Commander, there is something that took place practically 1 day after the National Assembly approved the Electoral Law reforms in accordance to what was agreed in El Salvador. Erick Ramirez' Social Christian Party [PSC] announced that his party will participate in the elections, warning that it could form some kind of alliance with the opposition, depending on the talks they will hold.

Ramirez' party is one of the parties that did not participate in the 1984 elections, and it was criticized by the International Christian Democracy. Journalists and politicians have noted that that same party is now one of the first to officially announce its participation in the 1990 elections. What is your opinion about this?

Nunez: I believe it is a positive sign that the PSC led by Erick Ramirez is correcting the mistake it made in 1984. In my opinion, the 1984 decision confused many PSC followers who wanted to vote for the PSC but who at the time of the 1984 elections had no other choice but to vote for the Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC]. I do not think I am making a mistake by saying that the election results obtained by the PPSC in 1984 were a surprise. I do not think the party itself expected those results. Those results are explained by the PSC's decision not to participate in the 1984 elections.

Erick Ramirez' announcement that the PSC will participate in the elections was made around the same time that Ramiro Gurdian, a Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] member, said the CDN will battle the Sandinist Front. I believe those decisions strengthen peaceful attitudes and keep away the possibility of solving Nicaragua's problems militarily. I hope and trust the other political parties make military decisions, [as published] because in that way we would strengthen democracy in Nicaragua.

Barberena: In your opinion, commander, what role will the ultraleft play in the upcoming elections? Will they have voters throughout the country?

Nunez: That depends on the strategy used by the minority parties (the traditional left and the ultraleft). It also depends on whether they decide to participate in all elections or only in some. And it depends on whether

they will participate in the elections individually. That is where the possibilities for minority parties to have representatives in the National Assembly or in the Municipal Councils reside.

In my very personal opinion and without wishing to interfere in their affairs, it seems to me those parties should form an alliance to participate in the elections, because that would increase their possibilities of representation. In other words, their survival or disappearance depends on that strategy.

Barberena: Prior to the approval of the Electoral Law, the Revolutionary Unity Movement (MUR)—composed of a group of leftist party dissidents—made a certain request. Do you think that this is because the traditional left—the socialists and communists—have been unable to set any kind of precedent in Nicaragua's political life?

Nunez: No. I think MUR's position is based on another kind of consideration. The MUR has applied for legal status, and its main objective, I have discovered, is to attract all Nicaraguans who do not belong to any party as well as dissidents from other parties. From this perspective, their idea has a far-reaching goal, and their position is not just in reaction to the failure of the socialist and communist parties to set a precedent in Nicaraguan political life—as made obvious by the fact that these two parties change tactics every so often.

The contradictions within the Communist Party are made obvious and have become more acute because of that party's new alliances. There are contradictions within the Socialist Party, which has rejected Marxism and now has opportunistically declared itself social democratic.

I believe that if MUR wants to become a political alternative for the Nicaraguan people, it must produce a platform capable of attracting supporters.

Barberena: Five years have passed since the first post-Somozist elections took place. How do you view the opposition's actions, considering that we have seen how the bloc of 14 signed agreements with the counterrevolutionary leadership in Guatemala?

Nunez: To be able to discuss what they are doing, we first have to define the concept of an opposition because, in Nicaragua, we have a parliamentary opposition and an extra-parliamentary opposition. Regarding the former, we would have to say that from a strategic point of view, its 1984 decision to participate in the election process has given the opposition greater national importance than that accorded to the extra-parliamentary opposition, representing an advantage for the former.

When I say that the opposition must define itself, I am referring to the fact that its behavior changes daily. According to recent statements, we will be dealing with an opposition that is basically trying to wage a battle against the Sandinist Front by forming ideologically similar blocs.

For what I have read, one of those blocs is the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN), another is the Group of Six, although, in the Nicaraguan political scene, it is unclear whether the party headed by Erick Ramirez [opposition Social Christian Party president] will join that bloc or instead participate independently in the elections. There is also discussion about an alliance among two Social Christian factions, whose leaders are Erick Ramirez and Mauricio Diaz [Secretary General of the Popular Social Christian Party], and the so-called ultraleftist parties, which, to date, have shown a desire to participate independently in the elections.

What is the new characteristic or element in the opposition's behavior? The PLI [Independent Liberal Party] is shifting toward the right. PLI's positions have changed so greatly that it now seems that the CDN would be willing to accept the PLI faction headed by Virgilio Godoy and to unite for the elections.

Always speaking of behavior, and despite their assertions and the daily assertions of U.S. Embassy spokesman, we cannot regard the group of 14 opposition political parties that went to Guatemala as the Nicaraguan opposition. We cannot regard that group as a solid alliance or a unified group, because that is false. That group is only at the service of foreign propaganda. Their image is exportable.

There are significant contradictions within those parties. Those contradictions do not allow us even to imagine—within the Nicaraguan political scene—that the bloc of 14 opposition political parties will unite for the elections. On the contrary, I dare say that the time for defining their positions is drawing near. The Nicaraguan political panorama, the identity of those participating in the elections, and the way in which they will participate will become clear over the next few weeks. I personally believe that the group of 14 will not participate in a united way in the elections.

Why? First, because they want to be presidential candidates. Second, because ultrarightist, centrist, and "traditional leftist" ideologies exist. Third, I cannot imagine the CDN allied with, for example, the Communist Party or PUCA [Central American Unionist Party]. Fourth, within the group of 14 [opposition parties] there is a group of 6 parties and organizations seeking to strengthen civic options and a platform of national unity. Although there are ideological differences among this group of six, there are also tactical agreements that draw them together in an alliance and emerge as a centrist alternative.

When I say that the moment for definitions is near in relation to the Guatemala meeting, I say so convinced that the CDN has taken advantage of the naivete and ambitions of the member parties of the bloc of 14. The CDN is the alternative of Somoquist guardsmen and, when it deems it appropriate, it will break up the bloc and present itself as the alternative that should receive all the aid that can be mustered to confront the FSLN.

Barberena: How will the FSLN behave during this campaign? Will there be more in-depth debates than in 1984 when only six legally established political forces participated?

Nunez: Opposition parties lack a single language or single and new program to present to the Nicaraguan people. For the FSLN, 10 years are not enough to say the revolution has been consolidated. We have not yet fulfilled our historic program; it is an ongoing program. We need more time to consolidate it, to make it a reality.

Although our revolution has progressed in 10 years of revolution, our election platform will continue to be based on a historic program, our achievements, and other goals we must strive to achieve. It will counteract charges and attacks from the right wing, which aims to make the revolution regress. In this election campaign, we want to acknowledge our achievements but also admit before our voters and general population our mistakes and recognize the limitations our country faces.

To win the elections honestly and fairly, we need to tell the truth. That will be the basis of in-depth FSLN debates; in these debates, we will not be on the defensive toward the parties involved in the election process. We will hold in-depth debates with our social rank and file. We will talk to them about our present and future; we will tell them what we can and cannot do.

I insist: Our platform and political language, the ideological struggle of the election campaign as conceived by the FSLN, is quite different from how the opposition conceives it. This is why we continue to claim that we are not a traditional party but an election party.

Barberena: Commander, you believe that the accords signed by Central American presidents in all their meetings have helped consolidate the revolutionary process in Nicaragua. Have they helped the FSLN improve this process?

Nunez: I will say that, by and large, all the efforts made at the Latin American level, including the Contadora Group, Support Group, United Nations, OAS, and Central American presidential summits, have contributed to deepening the process of internal stabilization and achieving peace in Nicaragua. However, we must add with absolute frankness that this has been possible thanks to permanent multilateral and bilateral initiatives presented by Nicaragua at the presidential summits.

I do not wish here to assess the compliance by Central American signatories of Central American presidential accords, but I do wish to point out the fact that Nicaragua has presented the main initiatives leading to the defeat of the Reagan administration's foreign policy and the strategic defeat of the counterrevolution. In this regard, we must not forget the great military victories our Armed Forces have achieved over the counterrevolution.

We are not assessing what the other Central American countries have done, and, by the way, they have done little in comparison to their commitments in the documents signed by the presidents. Nevertheless, I must take this opportunity to categorically reject statements by [Costa Rican] Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto. Besides meddling in Nicaragua's internal affairs, nobody has named him the guarantor or judge of the Electoral Law amendments that were approved in Nicaragua after heated debates.

He has no moral authority to condemn Electoral Law amendments, because, while we have tried to comply with the El Salvador accord and are just about to do that, the Costa Rican Government has not complied with its commitment of ratifying the charter treaty of the Central American Parliament. Thus, while we have been working intensely, the country that claims to be the most democratic in Central America has failed to comply. This is a commitment contained in an accord reached at a presidential summit, specifically the Esquipulas II accord.

Barberena: Do you believe the counterrevolutionary leadership can organize a new political party in Nicaragua and participate in the elections next year, and would they get any support from the population?

The Contras Have No Support From the People

Nunez: First, we maintain that the best formula is the repatriation and dismantling of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras. The Amnesty Law is still in effect. Therefore, once the counterrevolutionaries have been dismantled, and if they agree to be repatriated and join political, economic, and social activities in Nicaragua, they will have every right to join any of the existing parties or any of the parties that may be organized or to organize their own party, within the limits established by the reforms to the Electoral Law.

Will they get the people's support? I strongly maintain they will not, because the legal or political decisions stemming from the presidential agreements are one thing, but whether a party, new or old, has a social base is another. Our people have not forgotten who their assassins were. Therefore, I do not believe our people would elect the contras for presidential, legislative, municipal council, or any other elective post if they organize a party or join an established party. I do not

believe so. I do not think there is the remotest possibility that a Nicaraguan, who for the past 10 years has been suffering, will cast his vote for the assassins of the people. I do not think so.

Barberena: Would having a legally registered party—one that allows the nomination of some counterrevolutionary leaders—or not having a legally registered party have any effect on the people?

Nunez: I believe such statements require assumptions. Legally registered opposition parties and political groups have full rights to admit in their ranks any member of the counterrevolution who has surrendered his weapons, any member of the counterrevolutionary leadership, any leader. After the pardon, Cesar Augusto Castillo [member of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua] recruited one of them; I believe he is from Region 5. In other words, they have full rights.

However, precisely because we are in a process of coexistence with the various parties, I would not dare to make assumptions on the possible repercussions. I simply want to maintain that political groups as well as legally established political parties have every right to conduct their political campaigns and to admit these [counterrevolutionaries] people into their ranks.

Barberena: The election process in Nicaragua is approaching. Do you believe the new U.S. Administration is drafting new destabilization plans to try to prevent us from holding new general elections in our country?

A Respite for the Contras

Nunez: The U.S. Administration is adopting a foreign policy very different from the policy developed by the Reagan administration. I think this change is based on the defeat suffered by the counterrevolution, which has failed as an armed option. The \$66 million recently approved under the concept of humanitarian aid is an attempt to provide a respite for the contras. We maintain that those funds should rather be used for dismantling and repatriating the counterrevolutionaries to Nicaragua. On the other hand, the U.S. Administration has also encouraged the opposition to participate in the election process.

The struggle is becoming more difficult, more complex. This is a turnabout, a change in the new U.S. Administration toward the election process. Why do I say this? Because the political and ideological struggle over Nicaragua's condition is going to worsen. We are achieving peace, but at a huge economic cost that our political adversaries will try to use, as they are already doing, to win sympathizers during the election process.

Experience has shown that a military war, with its cost in blood, suffering, and grief, is a very different experience from a struggle in political ideas, especially in our condition.

The political and ideological struggle is also a kind of war. In the next few months, especially during the election campaign, it is going to escalate. The right will have greater human and material resources than other parties, and, as I said earlier, one of the central elements of these parties' election campaigns will be the economic crisis. They will try to demonstrate that the government is incapable of governing the revolutionary state.

And if they have the backing of the U.S. Embassy through donations under the terms established in the Electoral Law reforms or, as has happened on other occasions, through U.S. Embassy officials, then we have to say that the Sandinists must prepare well, precisely to prevent the confusion and manipulation of the people. This is especially so as this is an election process with which we do not have experience; there are four different types of elections, each with its own particularities and system of proportional voting.

Therefore, we are going to fight to solve the economic crisis. Then, in the elections, we are going into a fight in which all the written, televised, and radio broadcast media will be in [words indistinct] one part of the extreme rightist group to [words indistinct] Sandinists, the others from the center [words indistinct] representation, and the Sandinist Front to obtain an overwhelming victory with more [words indistinct] achieved in 1984.

Barberena: Commander, after the legislature has approved all the laws that deal with the elections, what position must the political parties assume on those laws? Could any party try to insert in its campaign a project to thoroughly explain the content of those laws?

Nunez: If a political party is mature and interested in changing the correlation of forces in the National Assembly, being represented in municipal councils, and even having mayors, the correct thing would be that they begin right now to explain to all their members the content of the Electoral Law, especially how each election will take place. Elementary logic indicates that the whole legal framework of the electoral system is practically concluded. The only thing missing is the law of political and administrative division. Upon its approval, all the legal instruments will be ready for the Supreme Electoral Council to begin its organization process and for the political parties to begin their preparations for participating in the elections.

After the legal framework for the elections is completed, the National Assembly must carry out other steps related to the foregoing. We must receive the candidate slates

from the president to elect the five principal and alternate Supreme Electoral Council magistrates, and they must be sworn in. Subsequently, we will elect the council president.

The Council of Political Parties must resolve the requests for legal standing of all political groups that have requested it. This means activating the Council of Political Parties, which must be guided by the provisions established in the Electoral Law and its reforms.

This deals with the composition of the Assembly of Political Parties and the composition of the Council of Political Parties. The rest is the responsibility of the political parties: the selection of their candidates for the various elective posts, the designation of their auditors—I said the last time there would be 14,000, including principals and alternates—and their members for the vote-counting boards.

The political parties must take advantage of the different periods of the election process to prepare themselves and to register new members. Then comes the election campaign itself, which officially begins 4 December and ends 21 February 1990. Then, after all the legislation is approved, the political parties can begin election activities, and political groups can request legal status with a minimum of requirements.

Barberena: Commander Nunez, what will the National Assembly do this year? Will the legislature's work be suspended after the political campaign begins?

Nunez: For all practical purposes, the El Salvador Agreement and the subsequent change in the election date interrupted the legislative calendar. This is not to say that our legislative calendar was disorganized. We had to give priority to the fulfillment of the El Salvador Agreement, but as president of the National Assembly—and I have discussed this with several members of the Assembly's Board of Directors—I cannot suspend legislative activity. Rather, we will try to complete at least part of the legislative calendar, which we had already considered. What seems likely not to be approved this year is the Labor Code, but I am not in favor of suspending legislative activity altogether.

During the election campaign there will probably be a decrease in legislative activity. Let us not forget that the legislature closes on 21 December, after the start of the election campaign. Therefore, there will be a decrease in legislative activity, but during the rest of this year we must fulfill at least part of the planned legislative calendar.

Barberena: You said the election campaign begins on 4 December. Is this included in the election law reforms?

Nunez: It is included in the reforms. The election process has three stages, according to the El Salvador Agreement. There is an initial organizational stage that runs from 25

April to 24 August. During this stage the parties will prepare themselves—that is, they will elect their officials, brief their members, study the Electoral Law, prepare their programs and platforms, and carry out other political party activities such as rallies with prior authorization from the relevant authorities.

Eighty Days To Campaign

The second stage runs from 25 August to 3 December. That is when parties can carry out membership drives and hold rallies with prior approval. The third stage runs from 4 December to 21 February. This is the election campaign itself, which lasts 80 days. The Supreme Electoral Council, knowing what parties are participating and who the candidates are, formally opens the election campaign on 4 December and closes it on 21 February 1990, 3 days before election day, as outlined in the Electoral Law.

These are the three stages that make up the election process. In the end the Supreme Electoral Council will announce the winning candidates for every seat, including the deputies to the Central American Parliament, if Costa Rica finally ratifies the treaty creating this latter body.

Panama

Further Reportage on Election Activities

'Macabre' U.S. Plan Reported

PA0805135389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
8 May 89 pp 1, 22

[Unattributed article: "Endara To Hide on a U.S. Base"]

[Text] Continuing the policy of the U.S. Embassy in Panama, and in view of the overwhelming defeat of the gringo ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] by the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, [U.S. Ambassador] Arthur Davis and [Deputy Chief of Mission] John Maisto have come up with a macabre plan in which they will use defeated candidate Guillermo Endara Galimany.

The plan includes staging a demonstration today so that in the disorder and confusion, the candidates of the gringo ADOC can be taken to a U.S. military base, where Endara will be proclaimed "legitimate president" by [deposed Panamanian President] Eric Arturo Delvalle, who is hiding on the same base.

This plan, disclosed by diplomatic sources, was reportedly drawn up by the U.S. State Department. It would be based on a statement that there had been fraud and that the gringo ADOC "was the legitimate winner."

In this unpatriotic adventure, Endara will be accompanied by several prominent members of the opposition, which follow U.S. orders. These people already have their suitcases packed and will be picked up by gringo soldiers.

It is known that [Christian Democratic Party Legislator] Willy Cochez has already sent his two daughters to an embassy. Other members of the gringo ADOC have already begun to take similar actions, sending their relatives abroad, preferably to the United States, or hiding them in embassies in Panama City.

The same sources indicated that during this operation, sponsored by the U.S. establishment, Eric Arturo Delvalle will turn over to Endara what little remains of the frozen funds belonging to the Panamanian people. Delvalle's "ambassador," Juan "Bemba" Sosa, will help carry out this plan.

The sources also state that once Endara is sworn in by Delvalle, Endara plans to authorize a U.S. invasion of Panama.

Election 'Irregularities' Claimed

PA0805170189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA
DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 May 89 pp 1, 9

[Text] Carlos Duque Jaen, presidential candidate of the COLINA, last night told the local and foreign press about a number of irregularities committed by the opposition. These irregularities, he said, only confuse the citizens and obstruct the electoral process.

Duque said ADOC supporters were campaigning throughout election day, which is clearly a violation of the Electoral Law. "You saw it yourselves," Duque said.

The COLINA candidate said ADOC candidates Gilberto Solis, Ada de Gordon, Cecilia Alegre, Carlos Arellano Lennox, and Marco Ameglio held meetings in different parts of Electoral Circuit 8-8, thereby delaying the start of the electoral process.

Mentioning other irregularities, Duque charged that ADOC supporters had been removing COLINA ballots from the voting booths. He also mentioned the disinformation campaign that is under way locally and abroad. "We have reports that radio stations in the interior have been spreading disinformation in favor of the ADOC and that clandestine stations have been disseminating information in an irresponsible manner," Duque said.

He added that at a polling station established at the IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute], supporters of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] struck COLINA representative Eric Jaramillo. He also mentioned coercion and physical violence related to the presentation of false documents to the Electoral Tribunal.

Duque said PDC members from Circuit 8-8 took over all the voting tables at the Ricardo Miro School and had to be evicted by units of the Panama Defense Force.

In a news conference with dozens of foreign and local journalists, ADOC candidates Guillermo Endara Gali-many, Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford Boyd presented documents showing "irregularities committed at polling stations" in different parts of the country. They also condemned an attack on Netherlands priest Nicholas Van Cleef in Santa Marta, Chiriqui Province.

The main irregularity committed is the systematic delay in opening the polls, undoubtedly for the purpose of reducing the number of voters, said Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, ADOC candidate for first vice president.

Arias Calderon said these irregularities occurred in Bocas del Toro Province, adding: "Most voting tables did not begin to function until 0900, and many had still not opened at 1030."

"In Colon Province, the elections were delayed until 1000," Arias Calderon added.

"The same happened in Veraguas Province, including the capital, Santiago, where many tables had not begun to function by 1030. There were cases of extreme irregularities in the Chiriqui highlands, where there were reports of tables that had not begun to function by 1500," Arias Calderon said.

"Even in the Panama City area, for example in Chilibre, some tables had not begun to function by 1325," Arias Calderon stressed. "This situation is widespread throughout the country. The place where the voting proceeded best was Panama City," Arias Calderon added.

During the news conference, Dr Arias Calderon condemned another irregularity: a lack of ADOC ballots. "In some cases, the absence of any ballots prevented the voting from starting, because our delegates insisted that voting not start until ADOC ballots were available," he added. Arias Calderon said incidents took place in all provinces: "In Panama City, for example, there were no ADOC ballots at tables 3320 and 3324 in the 24 December Corregimiento, at the Republic of Israel School, at the Republic of Korea School, and at the Republic of Haiti School, as well as in other places."

Dr Arias Calderon reported that the same thing occurred in several corregimientos in David District, such as Loma Colorada and Las Lomas. He added:

"This situation was not limited to rural areas; it also took place in urban areas. For example, in La Arena, Colon Province, thugs stole ADOC ballots and left voting table 485 with no ballots of any kind. Some ballots were missing at tables 475, 476, and 477."

"We also have disturbing reports about a car with license plate no 3550 taking ballots out of the Electoral Tribunal offices in David and arriving at the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] headquarters in David, Chiriqui Province, shortly afterward."

Arias Calderon mentioned cases in which names did not appear on the voter registry. Some people could not vote in Los Santos Province, he noted. He pointed out a strange case at voting table 462 in Colon Province in which a deceased person named Rawlind Maynard "voted" using identity card no 3-80-1554.

Arias Calderon also mentioned irregularities committed by FDP members: "High-ranking FDP officers voted at table 464 in Colon Province without showing any kind of identification. In Llano Grande and Rio de Jesus, Veraguas Province, policemen were seen voting at more than one table. It was reported that 400 policemen voted at one place and later voted again at another. Large groups of policemen voted at the Carlos A. Mendoza, Josefina Tapia, and IDAAN voting sites. This also occurred at Balboa Pier, Pedro Miguel, Curundu, and San Jose de San Carlos in Herrera Province."

Dr Arias Calderon also reported that an "identity card factory" was operating on Ricardo J. Alfaro Avenue in a building that previously housed the Orillac clinic.

In conclusion, he condemned a criminal attack against priest Nicolas Van Cleef, who serves the Santa Marta community. The priest was shot in the face while on his way to mass. "An FDP member pulled the priest's car over and ordered him to drive faster," Arias Calderon said, "but the priest said he could not drive any faster because he is physically handicapped. The policeman then shot the priest in the face." Arias Calderon added that the priest is in serious condition at a regional hospital.

U.S. Journalist Reprimanded

PA0805142489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
8 May 89 p 1

[Note from Luis Romero Villalobos, Government and Justice Ministry national media director, to Cable News Network (CNN) journalist Charles Jaco in Panama City on 7 May]

[Text]
Panama City, 7 May 1989
Mr Charles Jaco
CNN Correspondent
Holiday Inn
Panama City

Sir:

You are disinforming the U.S. public about the Panamanian elections through CNN.

Your behavior deserves censure as it affects our country by presenting a distorted image of the events taking place here. Your behavior therefore deserves punishment.

Luis Romero Villalobos
Media Director

Duque Claims Victory

PA0805171489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA
DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 May 89 pp A1, A-9

[Excerpts] Carlos Duque Jaen, the presidential candidate representing the eight parties composing the COLINA, last night informed the national and international press that "the margin of COLINA's victory is decisive, based on the preliminary results we have on the elections."

Duque spoke to journalists at 2300 at COLINA's headquarters. He was accompanied by vice presidential candidates Ramon Sieiro and Aquilino Boyd and other top leaders of the coalition's parties. [passage omitted]

According to Duque, the opposition should write a soap opera with its childish argument of fraud; however, he was deeply concerned and protested as a clear U.S. intervention the charges of fraud made before the elections.

"It is a bold and disrespectful accusation against the sovereign dignity of any country, because it is a way of inducing voters to vote against a political group."

Duque said U.S. intervention has been carried out through a bold and broad disinformation campaign against Panama during the past months. He added: Furthermore, the United States has had to admit in an impudent way that it has financed the opposition's campaign, which is another grave fault. "Now, I will ask you: Is that democracy?"

Regarding his efforts to resume and negotiate better relations with the United States, Carlos Duque Jaen said COLINA has the best men to carry out negotiations based on respect and dignity. More importantly, he added, we have the best men and the Panamanian people's support." [no opening quotation marks as published]

In reply to questions about irregularities reported by the ADOC, Duque said technical irregularities affect all candidates; they are like having one table, one handicap for all. How can the irregularities only affect them? It is ridiculous, because such things also affect us. One of my aunts could not vote today because she did not know where to go. However, there are election officials to take care of that. To mention those things shows lack of respect for the people, observers, and you, Duque told the journalists. [passage omitted]

Regarding his call for national reconciliation, Duque Jaen said to achieve that goal, COLINA has the best men, starting with him, who will do the best they can. He

said ADOC was asked on 6 February to join the conciliation effort, "because we can hold talks, because we are not seeking revenge and are not persecutors, because we have always been known for our democratic broad-mindedness, and because we are Torrijists in principle and in training."

When pressed about the irregularities that have been committed, Duque said everyone is equally at fault. We could we ask, he added, are they not buying votes with \$10 million? The flaws also hurt us, Duque said, and advised reporters and observers to ask the opposition to be more respectful when talking about irregularities.

Regarding the demonstration planned by ADOC, Duque Jaen said that is their problem, because the election law bans those demonstrations, and we are abiding by the law. As for the figures and results, COLINA is also abiding by the elections law and is awaiting the results from the election offices. [passage omitted]

Opposition To Be Investigated

PA0905022389 Panama City MEDIUM in Spanish 8 May 89 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Attorney General Carlos Villalaz reported that top opposition leaders will be questioned as part of an investigation authorized by the foreign minister into the \$10 million given by the U.S. Government for the opposition's political campaign.

Villalaz said that the Attorney General's Office investigation began the day after Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter filed the complaint, adding that the deputy district attorney had issued the criminal investigation decree to ascertain the means through which the funds in question had been brought into the country and what they had been used for.

Villalaz said that he had also asked the Electoral Tribunal to find out which political party officials would benefit and then ask them to explain and clarify their role in the U.S. Government's distribution of \$10 million.

Noriega Interview Published

PA0905055989 Panama City MEDIUM in Spanish 8 May 89 pp 10, 11

[Report on interview with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, by Alfonso Domingo of PANORAMA at Rio Hato military base—date not given]

[Text] [Domingo] The elections scheduled in Panama on Sunday, 7 May, presuppose a return to political normality and formal democracy in which real power will be in the hands of civilians. However, few believe that the

situation will change and that Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega will step down from his post as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

[Noriega] Nobody is going to tell me when I have to go, and much less the United States. These elections are important because, among other things, they are being held in peace at a time when our country is confronting an economic aggression. This shows the Panamanian people's keen interest in living in peace and harmony. Despite provocations, everything is developing normally.

[Domingo] Noriega does not like to predict what is going to happen or what may happen. He has always been a discreet man.

He was President Ronald Reagan's and the U.S. Administration's enemy number one. However, Reagan has already left the White House and his post to George Bush, while Noriega is still at his.

Noriega told PANORAMA during this second interview that "ours is a problem among persons, although one's frame of mind could have an influence on the dialogue." The general received this special correspondent last year, when relations between the world's greatest power and Panama were much more strained. Many things have happened since then.

All that which has happened has been planned by the U.S. "establishment." At first there was psychological warfare, international and local disinformation, and infiltration into the military and civilian ranks. When all this failed, they tried a stronger remedy, but that failed too.

We are at the Rio Hato military base, which was the first to revert [to Panama] under the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The general has a beach house in Farallon near the one formerly owned by General Omar Torrijos and to which Noriega retreats during the weekends to rest.

[Domingo] One of the issues that has arisen in the wake of Bush's elections is a "dossier" that allegedly exists about you since the time you were chief of the G-2, the Panamanian intelligence service. According to reports, the "dossier" deals with your relations with Bush when he was head of the CIA, to which some sources have linked you in the past....

[Noriega] There is one basic thing, similar to a doctrine. All those who handle diplomatic matters in the world maintain contacts, even though their countries do not maintain relations. It is the same with the intelligence community. In Spain, Germany, the USSR, Israel, and everywhere else, intelligence officials maintain contacts with other intelligence officials. If they were traitors, they would be thrown out, eliminated, or executed. They work for their respective countries. What could I have on

Bush or the CIA? The "dossier" on Star Wars? Please, let us be serious and show a little respect for the public. Of course there is no "dossier" on me. I think this matter partly concerns the general prevailing confusion and partly concerns my own merits, too. If they cannot catch you on moral or intellectual grounds, then they try to pin something else on you.

[Domingo] Panama became an issue in the last U.S. election campaign. Is it true that Dukakis tried to contact you?

[Noriega] Yes, he sent me messages with a number of requests for cooperation to try to gather support against Bush. I remained neutral in this campaign, because I do not want to be accused of precisely the same thing that I am charging them with: meddling. I did not make any statements because I felt that Panama should not be used as a banner around which to rally to get votes. This country was unknown until recently. Now, thanks to the United States, we are in the limelight and, though our role is passive, we should thank the United States for it.

[Domingo] Do you feel, therefore, that the new U.S. Administration will pursue the same line as its predecessor regarding Panama?

[Noriega] I cannot tell. What I can say is that world opinion views "the Panama case" as unfairly prefabricated. The building constructed by the United States is based on lies and is crumbling. It has no foundations, and anything built on lies is bound to crumble when confronted by the truth.

[Domingo] According to reports, Japan is playing a role in Panama.

[Noriega] Yes, it is true. Money has no eyes or soul. [sentence as published]

[Domingo] There are rumors about fraud. There are also rumors about political prisoners and closed media in a country that is supposedly returning to democracy.

[Noriega] Regarding fraud, I will not even bother to respond to such slanderous allegations. As for political prisoners, they are being released; and, as for the closed media, that would have happened in any country in the world, because the media printed or broadcast nothing but slander.

[Domingo] Where would you like to be on 31 December 1999, the date the United States must abandon the bases in the Panama Canal?

[Noriega] Thirty-one December is a day for which all Panamanians long for many reasons. First, because it marks the end of the year, and second, because it marks the end of the imperialist presence in our country, of the presence of a foreign army in our territory. Nothing

would be better than to witness this event in Panama and to be among the people, to be able to hear what the people will say, and then to compare events in 1999 with the situation now.

[Domingo] Are you looking forward to receiving the canal?

[Noriega] That honor already belongs to those who will be in charge of enforcing the treaty to ensure that for what many have suffered, struggled, and been persecuted becomes a reality.

[Domingo] Are you still writing your book?

[Noriega] Oh, yes. I am organizing everything, and I am accelerating it because there have been many publications on the Shah of Iran. As usual, a writer must write about what he has not seen and write what he believes is true. Many come here searching for information and we give it to them, but then they distort facts for commercial reasons. They do not tell the truth; there are always doubts, and there is always morbid curiosity. For example, they published reports about Torrijos, claiming that he said that since he had not made love to Farah Diva [wife of the Shah of Iran], he kept her sheets in order to smell them. Torrijos never said such a shameful thing. We have a lot of historical evidence on hand which could make a good book. The first part of my book will be entitled: "I, Guardian of the Shah."

[Domingo] You are well liked by the right wing and the Latin American military establishment as well as by the left wing because of your confrontations with the United States. What is your secret?

[Noriega] There is no secret. There is a reality, one in which we all see ourselves reflected. At this time Panama is like a mirror in which all of America—the left wing as well as the right wing see themselves. The common denominator is the destruction of leaders through psychological warfare. Each of these leaders can see what could happen to him if he were to confront the United States. He could be called anything: a drug trafficker, an assassin, you name it.... As an oppressed nation, one sees the capacity that one nation has to destroy another, whether it is a friendly or enemy nation, whether rightist or leftist. We all agree that stronger nations are aggressing against weaker ones.

[Domingo] Finally, how are relations with [Spanish Prime Minister] Felipe Gonzalez?

[Noriega] Felipe is not the same Felipe that used to come to Panama. He now has a lot of things to take care of. However, we have good relations, and we would like those relations to be even better.

[Domingo] Several ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] members have arrived in Panama. There are rumors that some more could come here, including those who are now in Santo Domingo.

[Noriega] The number who remain here, between five and nine, are not under our control, and we would like them to return whenever they wish to do so. They have been here for 4 years, and we are willing to receive more, because we want to help solve the problem. We have always advocated dialogue. If our position is of help, well, we are pleased about that.

Soldiers Fire on Crowd

FL0805140589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1335 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] We will now look at the reports in today's issue of EL HERALDO DE MEXICO. A front-page headline says: The Panamanian Army dispersed the crowd early this morning with machine-gun fire. This is interesting, because all other reports say that the elections were peaceful.

'Unofficial' Results Reported

PA0805155189 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1448 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] As of 0848 Panamanian local time [1348 GMT], we have the following information on the vote counting.

This is bulletin number 5. We will report on the voting tables that have been counted, by province:

Bocas del Toro Province:

A total of 63 voting tables—51.2 percent—have been counted. There are still 60 voting tables left to be counted. So far, 12,033 votes have been counted out of 31,168—38.6 percent.

Cocle Province:

No voting tables have been counted out of 235. No votes have been counted out of the 80,164 voters. Therefore, 0 percent have been counted.

Colon Province:

A total of 57 voting tables—25.1 percent—have been counted. There are still 170 voting tables—74.9 percent—left to be counted. So far, 10,214 votes have been counted out of a total of 71,242—14.3 percent.

Chiriqui Province:

A total of 72 voting tables—11.1 percent—have been counted. There are still 577 voting tables—88.9 percent—left to be counted. So far, 13,658 votes have been counted out of a total of 172,725 voters—that is 7.9 percent.

Darien Province:

No voting tables have been counted out of 61. No votes have been counted out of a total of 125,025 voters.

Herrera Province:

A total of 69 voting tables—27.7 percent—have been counted. There are still 180 voting tables—72.3 percent—left to be counted. So far, 17,340 votes have been counted out of a total of 54,437 voters—31.9 percent.

Los Santos Province:

A total of 122 voting tables—55 percent—have been counted. There are still 100 voting tables—45 percent—left to be counted. So far, 29,948 votes have been counted out of a total of 49,417 voters—60.6 percent.

Panama Province:

A total of 656 voting tables—35.8 percent—have been counted. There are still 1,174 voting tables—64.2 percent—left to be counted. So far, 173,829 votes have been counted out of a total of 591,107 voters—29.4 percent.

Veraguas Province:

No voting tables have been counted out of 452. No votes have been counted out of 93,878 voters—0 percent.

San Blas Province:

None of the 63 voting tables have been counted. No votes out of 15,639 voters have been counted—0 percent.

Total Figures:

A total of 1,039 voting tables—24.4 percent—have been counted. There are still 3,216 voting tables—75.6 percent—left to be counted. So far, 257,022 votes have been counted out of a total of 1,184,339 voters—21.7 percent.

This is the latest result from our computer center as of 0848 Panamanian local time.

Foreign Observers' Released

PA0805164289 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1500 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Juan Chevalier, an adviser to the Panamanian opposition candidate, has informed us that during the election process yesterday, the Noriega regime obstructed the work of independent international observers who had come to Panama to cover the elections.

[Begin Chevalier recording, in progress] ...in addition to the Costa Ricans whom we mentioned previously, a Norwegian and a Swede were also arrested but have

already been released. It is one of those cases in which they take people from one area and send them to another. I understand that a newswoman was also detained.

The people who were arrested in Chiriqui have been released. We are grateful to you because our cable television stations, channels 6 and 9, which give international news, have been cut off. Those channels are blank. Therefore, listening to Radio Impacto is one of the few ways to know what is happening, because there is nothing available locally. [end recording]

Observer's Car Attacked

LD0805173589 Madrid Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] According to some reports, the car traveled by Pere Vidal i Sardo, the deputy for the Catalan minority [Convergence and Union deputy for Gerona], who has been following the Panama elections as an observer, was shot at today. According to first impressions, the deputy was unharmed by the shooting, but the car was hit by a number of bullets. RNE [Spanish National Radio] in Gerona has been in touch with the deputy to check this story. Good afternoon, Miquel [name indistinct].

[Correspondent] Good afternoon. Deputy for Catalan minority Pere Vidal has told RNE that the events occurred when he was going to a place where votes were being counted along with Basque Nationalist Party deputy Emilio Olabarria. When they arrived, members of the defense forces and paramilitary groups prevented them from getting out of the car, telling them to move on. When they moved off they heard whistles from the soldiers and noises they did not identify at the time. Later they were able to confirm that there were bullet marks on the car.

Apparently the Panamanian Christian Democrats also have (?filmed) evidence of these events. The deputy also told RNE that the more than foreseeable electoral fraud was a botched job.

Tallying 'Proceeding Normally'

PA0805182389 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1745 GMT 8 May 89

[News bulletin issued by the Electoral Press Board]

[Text] Early today, after a recess of several hours, the Electoral Circuit 8-7 Vote-Counting Board resumed the tallying of votes from yesterday's presidential elections. This board is headed by Jose Carrillo, and is composed of representatives from all the political parties that participated in the elections. Under the Electoral Tribunal's coordination and with the direct participation of auditors from the Comptroller General's Office, the

Vote-Counting Board for Electoral Circuit 8-7 had tallied 33 of the 203 vote tally sheets received from the voting tables in the corregimientos of Santa Ana, Chorrillo, San Felipe, Calidonia, and Curundu.

Afterward, the Electoral Circuit 8-7 Vote-Counting Board will proceed to tally the votes according to the vote tally sheets for the election of legislators and their alternates in that sector of Panama City.

The tallying of votes for president and vice presidents was proceeding normally today, as can be seen in these video clips. The results will be sent to the Electoral Tribunal.

Embassy Denies 'Gallup-Spain' Link

PA0805190289 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1758 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (EFE)—The Spanish Embassy in Panama City warned today that a company calling itself Gallup-Spain has "no ties" with the Spanish Embassy or the Spanish Government. That company announced the only poll results favorable to progovernment presidential candidate Carlos Duque.

The Embassy added that the Spanish citizens who run that company's Panama branch "are here conducting their own professional activities."

An embassy communique stated that Gallup-Spain—or Intergallup, Inc.—is a "private company" and that "neither this diplomatic representation nor any part of the Spanish Government have anything to do with the company's activities in Panama."

Based on the results of a poll by that company, progovernment candidate Duque announced early Monday morning that he had won Sunday's elections.

The results announced by "Intergallup"—giving Duque 51 percent of the vote and opposition candidate Guillermo Endara 45 percent—were reported today with banner headlines in all the progovernment Panamanian newspapers (the opposition newspapers were all closed over 1 year ago).

Rights Committee on Terrorism

PA0805192389 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1845 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (EFE)—The Panamanian Committee for Human Rights (CPDH) charged today there has been "a gradual increase of state terrorism" following yesterday's elections and that this "worries" the committee.

"The CPDH is very concerned, because following the massive votes cast by the Panamanian people against the regime, the regime has gradually increased state terrorism, using military and paramilitary groups," said a communique.

The CPDH adds it has received "reports of many arrested and missing people—which has been reported to the international human rights organizations—persons shot by paramilitary groups, and the occupation of churches."

According to the CPDH document, during yesterday's elections, "there were unjustified delays in opening the polls" throughout the country, an absence of ballots, direct intervention by the Armed Forces to "alter the results of the votes," and other irregularities.

The CPDH charges include "fraudulent alterations in the voters' lists," theft of ballot boxes and tally sheets by "armed men and paramilitary men," and the absence of curtains to provide privacy when casting one's vote.

The CPDH report points out that "through constant harassment, the Panama Defense Forces prohibited and threatened our special guests from observing the Panamanian elections."

Duque's 'Victory' To Be Defended

PA0805193789 Panama City Radio Uno Soberana
Spanish 1910 GMT 8 May 89

[Test] Attention Panama, attention Panama: The first phase of "Operation Cobweb" has been executed. Continue reporting. Attention Panama: The first phase of "Operation Cobweb" has gone into effect.

Attention Panamanians: We have won. The gringos and the sell-out traitors have been defeated. It is now up to us to defend our victory. The future is ours. Everyone to the streets for the fatherland! Long live Carlos Duque!

Attention Panama, attention Panamenist people: The hour we had been waiting for has arrived. This is the time to pass the bill to U.S. imperialism and to the sell-out oligarchs. Defend your vote. Everyone go to the streets! Carlos Duque is president!

[Panama City Radio Uno Soberana Spanish is owned by Luis Gaspar Suarez, president of the progovernment Revolutionary Panamenist Party]

Protesters Begin March

PA0805202289 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1923 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (EFE)—Some 2,000 members of the opposition gathered at noon today in Panama City's banking sector to protest the election fraud they feel the government has committed.

The demonstrators cheered and applauded when Guillermo Endara, ADOC presidential candidate, arrived after a lengthy meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Endara said that "the people will decide rather than a petty tribunal of the dictatorship," adding that ADOC has over 70 percent of the votes, according to the information he has.

"The victory of the people will not be stolen," Endara added. He said he was willing to "defend our victory in the streets."

The presidential candidate evaded many questions about his meeting with Carter and only added that it was "very beneficial for both parties."

Opposition leaders said there were relatively few protesters because of the people's "fear" of the government's response to prevent the demonstration.

Up until 1330 (1830 GMT), the rally was being held peacefully and no policemen were seen in the area.

The demonstrators were shouting slogans against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander and "strongman" of the regime, who also recently held at least two lengthy conversations with Carter.

Many avenues leading to the banking area have been blocked by dozens of city buses and other public transportation vehicles.

One bus driver laughed and told EFE that "we are here because we have been convoked to celebrate the victory of COLINA," the progovernment National Liberation Coalition.

Meanwhile, the opposition charged there are armed militiamen belonging to the so-called "Dignity Battalions" in several churches in Panama City where opponents to the regime normally gather.

In two of these churches, there are civilians armed with steel rods and other objects to block entry to the churches.

The rest of the city is practically paralyzed; all enterprises, offices, shops, banks, and government and private offices have all closed in compliance with a presidential decree. Many establishments have covered their glass windows, fearing disturbances.

The only other place in Panama City where there are any groups of people in the streets is at the so-called Plaza of the Bored People, where Panamanians play domino and chess 24 hours a day.

Near FDP headquarters in downtown Panama City, where Gen Noriega has his offices, there are pairs of soldiers posted on rooftops with long-range rifles.

The Bridge of the Americas over the Panama Canal has Panamanian military checkpoints on both sides, where soldiers stop vehicles, write down the license plates and names of the passengers, and ask where they are going and why.

Most of the Panama City streets leading to the area where the U.S. military bases and the canal are located continue to be blocked by the FDP.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1941 GMT on 8 May reports: "Several thousand Panamanian opposition members marched this afternoon from the center of the city to the headquarters of the National Vote-Counting Board." It adds that the opposition members "gathered in central 50th Street and began the 2-km march at 1345 (1845 GMT)."]

Tally Sheet Delay Noted

*PA0805214789 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1945 GMT 8 May 89*

["Bulletin" issued by the Electoral Press Center; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The Electoral Press Center has toured the areas where the vote tally sheets are being received from the various circuits. Let us talk here with one of the National Vote-counting Board's support personnel:

[Unidentified official] "We have received exactly 188 of the 209 tally sheets that we should receive. We are missing 21 as of this moment, which is exactly 1330 [1830 GMT]. This is one of the circuits in which the flow of sheets has been smoothest.

[Second official] "We are waiting for the tally sheets from Bocas del Toro Province. They have not arrived because of the distance involved, but they should arrive at any moment.

[Third official] "As for Coclé Province, we have 227 polling places and 325 voting tables. So far we have not received any of the sheets, but we are hoping to receive them soon.

[Reporter] "What can you tell us about the circuits in Colon?

[Fourth official] "So far we have not received any of the sheets. We are waiting for them. There are 106 polling places and 281 tally sheets; that is 281 voting tables which have to send tally sheets, which we should receive today or during the course of the day tomorrow.

[Fifth official] "We are awaiting the tally sheets. So far, we have not received any from this circuit [circuit not identified]. We believe this is because they are coming from a distant province, but we think they should arrive during the course of the day."

The Electoral Press Center interviewed Diomedes Rosas, president of the National Vote Counting Board:

[Reporter] "What can you tell us about the activities of the National Vote-counting Board?

[Rosas] "Of course. I am pleased to report that we have begun to receive the tally sheets from the electoral circuits. We just received three sheets from Herrera Province.

[Reporter] "Do you expect to receive the rest of the tally sheets from the country's other provinces within the next few hours?

[Rosas] "We hope that the flow will be continuous now, and, within a short time, we will begin our job of scrutinizing each of them."

President Rosas also explained that the headquarters of the National Vote-counting Board receives the tally sheets from the voting tables to be used as reference documents, but only the 40 circuit tally sheets are counted to determine the final result.

Church Poll on Opposition Victory

*PA0805202389 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1956 GMT 8 May 89*

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (EFE)—The Panamanian Episcopal Conference [CEP] has announced that opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara has obtained 74.2 percent of the vote with 24.9 percent going to progovernment candidate Carlos Duque, according to an "exit poll" conducted at 115 voting tables.

The CEP also calls on "all the authorities to respect the people's will for the sake of truth, justice, and peace."

According to the Panamanian Catholic bishops, the "exit poll" taken by a commission of the Panama City archdioceses shows there is "a substantial majority" in favor of the opposition.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources told EFE that Spanish Bishop Sebastian Laboa, the apostolic nuncio in Panama, has already informed the Vatican that the opposition won Sunday's elections.

Protesters Facing Each Other

PA0805203689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1959 GMT 8 May 89

[Report from Panama City by unidentified reporter—recorded]

[Text] At the Atlapa Convention Center, where the National Vote-Counting Board is located, all entrances are being blocked by the so-called Doberman units—FDP members. The Vote-Counting Board is in charge of proclaiming the election winners. Opposition members are marching toward the Atlapa Convention Center to demand an honest vote-count. The opposition marchers are currently facing the Dobermans.

Candidates Guillermo Endara, Guillermo Ford, and Ricardo Arias Calderon are heading the demonstration. As Panamanians chant: Justice! Justice! The Dobermans are standing on the other side in full riot gear, with tear-gas canisters and firearms. This is the situation right now in the area around Atlapa Convention Center. We will be bringing further information directly from here to inform you concerning the situation in Panama.

Riot Police Block March Access

PA0805213589 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2038 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (EFE)—Panama Defense Forces riot police blocked off opposition marchers led by ADOC Presidential Candidate Guillermo Endara from the Atlapa Convention Center. The demonstrators were on their way to the Panama Electoral Tribunal [TEP].

Several thousand demonstrators stopped 20 meters from the police cordon, shouting: "Endara president" and "Not 1 more day," and "Down with General Manuel Antonio Noriega."

Endara and the two opposition vice presidential candidates spoke with an officer leading the "Centurion" riot squads, who told them that he had instructions not to let them pass.

The policemen are equipped with helmets, shields, hoses, and some have buckshot rifles. Water trucks can be seen behind them.

All streets leading to the Atlapa Convention Center—where the TEP and the Vote Counting Board are installed—have been closed off by the "Centurions."

The officer in charge asked Endara and the demonstrators to leave. He told them that they cannot interrupt the work of the Vote-Counting Board, which, up until this afternoon—22 hours after the end of Sunday's elections—has not announced any results.

The demonstrators are standing 20 meters from the police cordon and have not moved from there. Also there are international observers, such as European Parliament delegation leader Fernando Suarez.

The group of demonstrators have been called to meet at noon (1700 GMT) in the capital's banking area, whose access routes were closed off by buses and taxis early this morning. At first there were only approximately 2,000 people, but they were later joined by several thousand more as they marched toward the TEP.

ADOC's Ford Speaks at Rally

PA0805231789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
2100 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] We report from Panama that the demonstration called by the ADOC, and which was headed by this coalition's presidential candidates, got as far as the Atlapa Convention Center. Here it was scheduled to end because the the National Vote-Counting Board is located there. The National Vote-Counting Board is in charge of announcing the election winners.

When the demonstrators arrived, they were blocked by the Dobermen [FDP riot police], who prevented access to the Atlapa Convention Center. The presidential candidates approached the officer in charge of the operation, who reported that they—the FDP members—were under instructions to guard the ballot boxes and the vote tally sheets and could therefore not allow the demonstrators access to the Atlapa Convention Center.

The ADOC presidential candidates said that they would stage a protest near the Dobermen and later leave the area—which they did. At their meeting, ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara thanked the Panamanian people for the support ADOC received in this election process and for having placed their confidence in him.

First Vice Presidential Candidate Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon reported that ADOC members have spoken to three former Latin American presidents, who told them that they will recognize ADOC as the winner.

Second Vice Presidential Candidate Guillermo Ford gave details of talks the ADOC presidential candidates held with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is in Panama as an election observer. Let us hear Guillermo Ford:

[Begin Ford recording] [applause] Panamanian people, I kept my word; I kept my word. I told you that I would end up hoarse, but no way would I end up mute. [applause] Thank you, noble people, for having placed your trust in sweetbread [Endara's nickname]. [crowd cheers, laughs] What more can I say? He is a great gentleman and a big sweetbread.

My brother, Ricardo [Arias Calderon] and I, your humble servant, from this moment on will be your humble public servants. [crowds cheers, applauds] There is a man, a North American, who is deeply involved in this country's future. He is none other than former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who signed the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. As a condition for signing those treaties, he made the moral demand that democracy be returned to Panama. That wish, that desire, that obligation was not fulfilled, and today he is in Panama trying to ensure compliance. He has told us that he congratulates the Panamanian people, he congratulates us, and that he will publicly announce as a former constitutional U.S. President that we have won 75 percent... [crowd interrupts with applause and chants] against 25 percent. Mr Duque, you must learn how to add! [applause] When I heard these words from someone whom I respect as much as I do President Carter, I slightly altered my battle cry to: Thank God this damn thing is over! [applause]

The officer in charge was very courteous and said that they had been ordered to guard the building housing the National Vote-Counting Board. Because of the respectful, educated, and decent way in which the officer addressed us, we agreed to present our protest and to leave the area. [end recording]

Riot Police Fire Birdshot

PA0805215389 Paris AFP in Spanish
2118 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (AFP)—Riot police repressed a march this afternoon by the ADOC headed by its presidential candidate Guillermo Endara. The marchers were headed toward the headquarters of the National Vote-Counting Board at the Atlapa Convention Center to proclaim victory in Sunday's elections.

The police units fired birdshot into the air to block the demonstrators' route two blocks from the Atlapa Convention Center in Paitilla, in the southeastern section of the capital.

The riot squads also blocked the demonstrators with a water truck and two troop transport vehicles.

The incident erupted just 100 meters from where Endara was marching, accompanied by ADOC vice presidential candidates Ricardo Arias and Guillermo Ford.

The demonstrators retreated momentarily when the troops stepped in and a climate of tension and fear prevailed throughout the area.

Government on False Broadcasts

PA0805230189 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 2133 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] [Announcer] Good afternoon, Radio Nacional listeners throughout the country. Your close attention, please. We want to make it clear to all listeners that since

yesterday, using highly sophisticated equipment and state-of-the-art technology, opposition figures—who are, of course, being financed by the U.S. Government—have been interfering with the signal of several radio stations in our country and broadcasting false information and figures that do not reflect the number of votes actually cast during the general elections held yesterday.

The ultramodern equipment supplied by the CIA—part of which was seized a few weeks ago by state security services—makes it possible to broadcast recordings supposedly made with the voice of Radio Nacional announcers. For example, recordings of broadcasts made by Radio Nacional broadcasters Zelideth Maritza Rosales and Companero Gerardo Urrunaga Jr are being made in order to broadcast this information and to create a climate of anxiety, confusion, and chaos to thus promote acts of violence, which, however, the Panamanian people know how to counteract with their civic composure.

Consequently, we have with us here Gerardo Urrunaga Jr, who will confirm that he at no time has made recordings or used his voice to broadcast these false figures. Over to you, Gerardo.

[Urrunaga] Yes, Euclides. Everybody knows my nationalist stance, not only through radio broadcasts but through newspaper publications. I feel extremely irritated because the recordings I have made for Radio Nacional have been made with strong nationalist and patriotic feelings, and the opposition—along with foreign elements—should not use my voice to try to sow chaos in this country with totally false reports.

I reiterate: I have made absolutely no recording for the station that is broadcasting signals over those of the various Panamanian stations. I have made recordings exclusively for Panama's Radio Nacional.

[Announcer] Listeners, following this clarification by Gerardo Urrunaga, who is one of Radio Nacional's newscasters, we appeal to the public and to international newsmen who are currently covering the Panamanian election process to bear in mind that these broadcasts do not originate from any reputable source and that they are part of a plan devised over 2 years ago to destabilize our country and to make our people kneel to inhibit the perfection of their national sovereignty and dignity.

We will now present Companero Zelideth Maritza Rosales, who will also make statements in this regard:

[Rosales] I wish to take this opportunity to tell our listeners that the false newscasts being broadcast in my and Urrunaga's voice are not really part of Radio Nacional broadcasts. These broadcasts are being made by the opposition to continue its destabilization efforts. They are part of the U.S. Government's measures to confuse the Panamanian people and to make us fight with our own brothers. This must never happen.

For this reason, the people must be aware and realize once again the lowly and filthy way in which the United States is using its sophisticated means to attack this small country; it wants to sow chaos among our population.

[Announcer] We thank Urrugana and Rosales for their statements for Radio Nacional and ask our listeners to keep tuned to our stations for accurate reports on local events.

3 Wounded in Demonstration

PA0805225689 Paris AFP in Spanish
2219 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 8 May (AFP)—Fernando Arauz, a cameraman for Panama City's Channel 13, was shot in the chest today by alleged paramilitary agents who support the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega. This occurred during a march convoked by the opposition here today to claim victory in Sunday's elections in Panama.

According to eyewitnesses, Marin, who had to be operated on at a Panama City hospital, was wounded by a group of armed individuals who were riding in a car and are government supporters.

Another two Panamanian civilians, 26-year-old Ramon Vega and 45-year-old Alfredo Moreno, also received bullet wounds during the demonstration, but their conditions are not critical.

In addition, French journalist Beltran De la Grange, a LE MONDE reporter, was hit in the waist area by a soldier firing birdshot.

COLINA Victory 'Unquestionable'

PA0905015689 Havana International Service
in Spanish 0020 GMT 9 May 89

[Report by Nelson Notario Castro]

[Text] As I reported a few moments ago, the final results of Panama's 7 May general elections have not been announced, but preliminary reports indicate that COLINA headed by Carlos Duque Jaen, has sustained an overwhelming victory by a wide margin.

The country is calm. The elections were carried out in an atmosphere of peace and harmony, although there were some illegal acts committed by the ADOC, including political proselytizing, physical attacks, the interception of three radio stations that were part of a national network which, in accordance with the law, were only broadcasting official reports.

ADOC intercepted the radio stations to broadcast false information on the elections, to incite Panamanians to disorder, violence, and disobedience, and to broadcast reports from neighboring countries to the effect that

some voting centers were surrounded by military forces, airports were closed, and gun shots could be heard in the city. I insist, my friends in Latin America and the entire world, that all of this is completely false.

At about midnight, Carlos Duque Jaen—COLINA's candidate and virtual president—called a news conference to alert the national and international press to the manipulations COLINA's unobjectionable victory is being subjected to.

[Begin Duque recording] Today you have witnessed an event in which the most absolute calm has prevailed. The event was carried out in absolute peace. The Panamanian people have expressed themselves freely in fair and honest elections that will set us on the path to perfecting our democracy. I am supremely satisfied and thankful for the support I have received today from the Panamanian people.

Because of certain actions carried out by opposition representatives during the course of the election process, you and I must alert the general public and the international community you represent to the plan to cast a shadow on COLINA's legitimate victory. This is why I have summoned you. [end recording]

These were the words of Carlos Duque Jaen, COLINA's presidential candidate and the virtual president-elect of Panama by popular demand in completely honest elections.

Duque Claims Victory

PA0905020489 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0103 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Panama, 8 May (EFE)—Carlos Duque, Panamanian presidential candidate for the government's COLINA, today proclaimed victory in Sunday's elections by a margin of 20,684 votes which, he said, reflected the returns after 43 percent of the voting tables had been counted.

At a news conference, Duque explained that up until 1100 (1600 GMT), 1,820 tables had been counted, yielding 207,171 votes for COLINA, 186,487 for the ADOC, and 21,448 for the minority Authentic Panamanian Party (PPA).

Duque, who was accompanied by first and second vice presidential candidates Ramon Siero and Aquilino Boyd, respectively, pointed out that "the opposition should have the same results." Duque added that the figures quoted are the cause of the ADOC's desperate attempt to create disturbances.

FDP Blamed for Priest's Death

PA0905025689 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0138 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Panama, 8 May (EFE)—The archbishopric in the Panamanian city of David near the Costa Rican border today condemned the murder of Netherlands Priest Nicolas Van Cleef, and blamed the FDP for the incident.

The 52-year-old Van Cleef died today, a victim of a soldier who had forced him to drive to FDP headquarters. Van Cleef had been sitting in his car summoning his congregation to Sunday mass aided by a megaphone.

In a communique issued today, the archbishopric in David expressed its condemnation of this "dastardly murder," for which, the communique said, "we blame the FDP."

"We are also opposed to the manner in which our peaceful and defenseless people have been intimidated by the FDP's issuance of lethal weapons to immature and irresponsible individuals," the clergymen added in a communique signed, among others, by David's Bishop Daniel Nunez.

The Human Rights Board also "strongly" protested today to FDP chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega and Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, over this "serious incident which constitutes a denial of the right to life stipulated in the Constitution and in the universal human rights declaration," according to the document.

The murdered priest, paralyzed at age 22 in a traffic accident, was a Paulist priest and had ministered in Veraguas and Chiriqui Provinces since 1965.

Ritter Protests Election Reports

PA0905030789 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0213 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 8 May (EFE)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter "vehemently" protested the announcement of election results on Sunday night by the U.S. Southern Command television station that operates in Panama, saying that such action "violates an official prohibition."

According to the foreign minister, such announcements, which in some cases were translated into Spanish, also violate the 1977 Canal Treaties.

Ritter stated that, according to the treaties, the U.S. Southern Command can only broadcast programs for the "amusement and entertainment of soldiers." [passage omitted]

COLINA Insists on Victory

PA0905042189 Paris AFP in Spanish
0313 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama, 8 May (AFP)—The progovernment COLINA insisted today that it won Sunday's elections, adding that its computations indicate that COLINA won 49.9 percent of the votes as opposed to the 44.9 percent won by its leading opponent. [passage omitted]

Tonight the National Vote-Counting Board had not yet turned in the official election returns which, according to the electoral law, should have been disclosed 24 hours after the elections closed.

The board, which is established at the Atlapa Convention Center in southeastern Panama City, announced that of the 40 [as received] vote tally sheets it is scheduled to receive, it has only received three from the central Herrera Province and one from Circuit 8-7 in Panama City.

Duque insists that Panama is being "rudely interfered with" by the United States and dismissed as "ridiculous" opposition reports claiming an election fraud, a massive seizure of ballot boxes, and falsification of results.

"The opposition whiningly spends all of its time denouncing and denouncing," Duque said, although he did not dismiss the possibility of taking "legal action" against opposition leaders found guilty of collaborating with the United States.

Duque described the group of senators and congressmen sent by U.S. President George Bush as "ridiculous pseudoobservers," adding that the United States is not interested in democracy "but in disregarding the canal treaties" signed in 1977. "We will appeal to international organizations to stop this threat," Duque emphasized.

Carlos Duque went on to say that the United States represents a real threat to Panamanian national security because of its "espionage, intimidation, and threats of military intervention." Although Duque says that Washington is waging "a low-intensity war" against Panama, he said that his government will seek "reconciliation" with the Bush administration.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter pointed out that the United States has increased its military presence in the canal area, and that "the threat of a U.S. military intervention" still looms.

Endara Casts Doubt on Poll

PA0905051089 San Jose Radio Impacto
in Spanish 0325 GMT 9 May 89

[Interview with Guillermo Endara, Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance presidential candidate, by unidentified reporters on 8 May in Panama City—recorded]

[Text] [Endara] Inter-Gallup is an organization not recognized by Gallup in the United States. According to Gallup's subsidiary in Costa Rica, there is no connection

with Inter-Gallup. One should bear in mind that these gentlemen are a bunch of liars and are always carrying out polls that are completely false. If you want to publish their figures, go ahead; but if you want to have correct information, do not use their figures, because they are completely false.

[Reporter] What news do you have on [words indistinct]? Does that have any connection with Gallup?

[Endara] The information we have—and we even had that information verified by Gallup's subsidiary in Costa Rica—is that Gallup has no connection with the announcement that appeared yesterday morning in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA [words indistinct].

[Reporter, in English] [Words indistinct] President of Panama. How is your position going to react?

[Endara, in English] We believe that the people... [does not finish sentence as heard; switches to Spanish] Our position is that it is not the Panama Defense Forces who choose the presidents in Panama; it is the Panamanian people. The Panamanian people are well aware that this is how it should be. The Panamanian people are going to demand that the winner be the person whom they chose. It has been clearly determined that Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance candidates are the winners by popular choice. [applause]

According to percentages given to us awhile ago, we are ahead by between 75 and 80 percent at all the polling stations that we have checked. This concurs with the information provided by the church.

Observers Issue Communique

PA0905052989 San Jose Radio Impacto
in Spanish 0413 GMT 9 May 89

[Communique issued by "279 observers from 71 countries" of the elections of 7 May—place and date not given]

[Text] We, international observers from various countries, representing various social organizations and political parties of various ideological and democratic leanings, hereby state the following:

We have witnessed the Panamanian people's determination to exert their right to freely elect their rulers, which was unquestionably expressed by the massive turnout at the polls, despite the intimidating presence of the Panama Defense Forces soldiers and armed civilians at various times during the voting process.

During the voting process and the subsequent counting of votes at the voting tables, the authorities did not block our access to the voting tables, except in some serious but isolated cases. It is important to point out that we

saw large orderly crowds outside the voting centers, who were there to prevent the authorities from hindering the process, committing voting irregularities, or disturbing the ballot boxes.

We witnessed the results at the voting tables we monitored, except in places such as Herrera and Darien Provinces, where the observers were ordered to leave the area and in some cases to leave the country. The information we gathered at the voting tables makes it apparent that the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance obtained over 70 percent of the counted votes. Many of us were able to confirm that this information concurred with the information compiled by the Catholic Church observers in Panama.

We confirmed the limitations on the rights to freedom of speech and the restrictions placed on the right to broadcast information, a restriction the Panamanian media and people have had to endure before, during, and after the elections process. Today, 1 day after the voting, no results—not even partial results of the vote counting carried out at the voting tables by the Electoral Tribunal authorities—have been reported.

We have received many reports of fraudulent activities perpetrated by paramilitary forces after the closing of the polls for the specific purpose of annulling or changing the final results of the elections process, thus attempting to once again thwart the people's will.

We urge the current government to respect the Panamanian people's decision, which was clearly expressed at the polls, and to turn over the leadership of the government, on the established date, to those elected according to the people's will.

We also demand the mediation of free governments in the world so that the Panamanian people's decision is respected.

Finally, we want to state before the international community our admiration for the Panamanian people's courage and civic spirit in freely expressing their will, which is an example for all democratic citizens in the world and an example we are sure free countries will honor with their support so the people's will, expressed at the polls, will be respected.

Vote-Counting Board Recesses

PA0905060689 Bogota Radio Cadena Caracol Network
in Spanish 0515 GMT 9 May

[Telephone report by Jairo Pozada in Panama City—live]

[Text] The international press center has closed. The center offered all kinds of facilities for the international media. Approximately 300 journalists used the center's

services. Many media representatives have begun to leave. Panama has proven that it has one of the best telecommunications systems in Latin America.

We have just been told that the National Vote-Counting Board has declared a recess. Vote tally sheets were being reviewed and signed. The 40 electoral districts are being counted to proclaim, in the next few days, a new president, 2 vice presidents, and 67 legislators.

According to political sectors, National Vote-Counting Board President Diomedes Rosas must respond to some strong statements made by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter within the past few hours.

In addition, it has been said that an effort is being made to guarantee that everything will be done according to the law, signed and sealed, so that neither political side will claim that there was fraud.

Calm is slowly returning to the country, despite the disturbances of the past few hours.

Channel 13 reporter Fernando Arauz is recovering from a bullet wound to the chest.

No Results Issued Yet

PA0905062689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0557 GMT
9 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 9 May (EFE)— The National Vote-Counting Board suspended its work early this morning without releasing any results.

A spokesman of the Electoral Tribunal's Press Center told EFE that he did not know how long this recess would last or when preliminary figures will be announced.

Despite a lack of official results, the government and opposition candidates, Carlos Duque and Guillermo Endara, respectively, proclaimed their victory and asked their followers to defend this victory in the streets.

At least eight people received bullet wounds in Panama City and nearby towns today as a result of various incidents between government opponents, on one side, and policemen and government supporters on the other.

Bolivia

TV Station Releases Elections Results

PY0805134289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0637 GMT
8 May 89

[Text] La Paz, 8 May (EFE)—Hugo Banzer, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, and Jaime Paz Zamora are the three leading candidates in the general elections held on 7 May in Bolivia. This is the result that has been predicted by the majority of polls performed during the electoral campaign.

None of the candidates, however, have won an absolute majority, for which reason—according to the Constitution—Congress will have to choose the president from among those three candidates.

Neither government nor electoral sources have yet released any results.

The ATB national private television network has computed the results as of 0200 on 8 May. This report includes a total of 932,000 votes, which accounts for 45 percent of voters. ATB announced that the counting of votes will recommence at 1000 on 8 May.

According to this ATB report, National Democratic Action (ADN) candidate Hugo Banzer leads the count with 27 percent of the votes, closely followed by ruling nationalist revolutionary movement (MNR) candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

The candidate with the third largest number of votes is Jaime Paz Zamora, of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), who has 22 percent of the votes. Carlos Palenque, of the Conscience of the Fatherland Party (Condepa), ranks fourth with 10 percent of the votes, while United Left leader Antonio Aranibar ranks fifth with 6.5 percent of the votes.

The ATB network released the following unofficial results:

Total number of voters: 2,138,000

Number of counted votes: 932,000 (45 percent of all voters)

ADN: 27.4 percent

MNR: 27 percent

MIR: 22 percent

CONDEPA: 10 percent

United Left: 6.5 percent

MNR Candidate Claims Election Victory

PY0805193289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1846 GMT
8 May 89

[Text] La Paz, 8 May (EFE)—Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, the presidential candidate of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), today claimed that, based on his own data, he has won the Bolivian general election.

Sanchez de Lozada said that in accordance with vote projections of the MNR data center his party has obtained 26.8 percent, followed by the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) of General Hugo Banzer Suarez with 24 percent.

Sanchez de Lozada said the vote of the peasants, who traditionally give their votes to the MNR, were decisive. He said he was "satisfied, grateful, and moved" by the votes he has received.

According to preliminary polls conducted by the ATB Private Television Network, Banzer is leading with 26.8 percent after counting 54.5 percent of the votes.

The MNR is running second with 26 percent and the Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MIR) is third with 22 percent.

Although the National Electoral Board will not release any official result until 28 May, Sanchez de Lozada guaranteed that he "will be the Bolivian president for the next 4 years." He added that he "will finish the job started by President Paz Estenssoro."

According to Sanchez de Lozada, the people's vote shows that they want stability and continuity of the economic model.

According to observers, the Bolivian election was held in an atmosphere of calm and maturity. Sanchez de Lozada said the election has also shown that a "courageous and technically competent" government can take harsh measures and still continue to be politically attractive.

Finally, Sanchez de Lozada urged all of his "political adversaries" to talk and to reach agreements "to promote a crusade that will allow Bolivia to enter the 21st century already stable and developed."

La Paz Department Reports Electoral Proceedings

PY0905024889 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Authorities of La Paz Department Electoral Court have said that La Paz' 18 provinces, Murillo excepted, have until tomorrow night to hand in their ballot boxes. These boxes will be kept in a closed room.

Wifredo Cosia [not further identified] said the Electoral Court has adopted the appropriate measures to transport all the boxes to the department's government house.

Cosia said that so far a total of 480 ballot boxes have been received from different rural areas near La Paz. These areas have their own means of transportation. Another 800 ballot boxes will have to arrive before tomorrow night. The count will begin after we receive the total of 1,304 ballot boxes that we distributed throughout the department for yesterday's election, Cosia said.

Regarding the counting of the votes, Cosia said the actual process will begin at 0800 in six different rooms within the building. Cosia added that each political party will have two representatives in each room, and that 30 representatives of all parties have been accredited to oversee the operation.

Final Election Results Planned for 27 May
PY0905020589 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] The National Electoral Court has until 30 June to send to Congress a detailed report on the entire electoral process and a definitive and official result of the election.

This information was given to Panamericana by Roger Pando, dean of the National Electoral Court. Pando said that according to the law, the departments' electoral courts have until 17 May to submit their reports. This means the National Electoral Court has another 10 days, or until 27 May, to release the official results to the country.

Pando said that Congress will meet in the first days of August to consider the approval, amendment, or rejection of the National Electoral Court report.

Pando also said that according to unofficial results, the designation of a president and a vice president will be done by the Congress.

Regarding the Electoral Court's report to the nation, Pando said:

[Begin Pando recording] We will have to wait until 27 May before we can report to the nation of the exact and definitive result of the 7 May general election. Of course, if the Congress considers a recount is necessary, should there be a justified reason, the figures might still change. [end recording]

Police Report 'Total Calm' Across Country
PY0905022489 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] The Bolivian police General Command has announced that according to reports from throughout Bolivia today there is total calm in the country.

The report says that everything has been completely normal with the exception of some minor incidents with cars without the appropriate authorization, traffic accidents, or the transportation of people to hospitals for health reasons. The report adds that police are still guarding ballot boxes at various places. The police will leave only when the National Electoral Court so decides, because those are their instructions.

Brazil

Sarney To Attend Inauguration in Paraguay
PY0605004689 Brasilia Domestic Service
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] President Jose Sarney will participate in the inauguration ceremony of the new Paraguayan President, General Andres Rodriguez on 15 May, in Asuncion. Thus, President Sarney intends to support the redemocratization process in Paraguay.

Itamaraty today reported that the Brazilian president will remain in Asuncion less than 24 hours. According to Itamaraty, Sarney's trip to Paraguay has been confirmed. Two ministers will accompany him: Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, and Military Household Chief Bayma Denys.

Present also at General Andres Rodriguez' inauguration will be Presidents Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay and Raul Alfonsin of Argentina.

This is the second time that the Brazilian President will participate in the inauguration of a foreign chief of state. Last February Sarney also attended the inauguration ceremony of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Vietnam
PY0905011289 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television
in Portuguese 2300 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] As of today Brazil has established diplomatic relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The relations were established during a meeting between Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, Foreign Ministry secretary general, and Vietnamese Ambassador in Cuba Do Van Tai. They met in Havana, Cuba.

President Comments on Provisional Measure No 50
PY0805161089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 6 May 89 p 5

[Text] In his weekly Friday radio program, President Jose Sarney warned on the dangers of violence and defended the Provisional Measure No 50 that regulates the right to strike. "I made a law that I am constitutionally authorized to make, and nobody will disobey it."

The President equated the use of the law on strikes to the maintenance of institutional stability, and affirmed that "where the law is not respected, there is disorder that leads to violence." He recalled that the Constitution calls for a law to regulate the right to strike.

The Provisional Measure No 50, according to Sarney, has already been proven by its results, particularly regarding the strikes at the Bank of Brazil and the Central Bank. Commenting on the strike at the Bank of Brazil, Sarney said "the unpopularity of that politically

motivated strike, and the irresponsibility of the leaders who initiated it, became clear from the start." Sarney affirmed that Central Bank employees are responding to the call for a return to work.

The President cited two episodes that took place last week: the declarations by business leaders supporting civil disobedience, and the bomb that went off in the hands of "an activist" inside a bank agency in Redife. As for the bombing that destroyed the memorial to workers who died at the National Steelmaking Company (CSN) in Volta Redonda, Sarney just said that it was a "grave" episode.

When he arrived in Manaus to attend the Amazon Cooperation Treaty summit, the President said that the country's political transition project was not threatened by last week's incidents. He noted that Brazil's way is "dialogue and conciliation of interest," but never "the escalation of terror."

Sarney also said that his is the lone voice reaffirming that "democracy demands from everyone a disposition to dialogue, while the government should try to settle conflicts through the conciliation of interests." Sarney told a Colombian journalist that he hopes to see the process of transition to democracy completed by the end of his term of office.

Striking Metal Workers Clash With Police

PY0605003289 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television
in Portuguese 2300 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] A march carried out by striking metal workers of the Diadema region in the Sao Paulo industrial belt concluded in violence.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] This morning about 30,000 metal workers from Sao Bernardo and Diadema held a meeting and decided to continue with the strike. Yesterday, the Labor Court said that the strike is illegal. After the meeting, about 5,000 metal workers decided to march in front of various factories of Diadema. The striking workers organized committees to enter the companies and to convince the workers to join the strike.

The violence began when the striking workers arrived in front of the (Arteve) metal plant where a military police unit was standing guard. The police threw tear gas and the striking workers threw rocks at the policemen. In the midst of the confusion the military police unit fired at the workers. At least two metal workers were wounded and the windows of several police cars were broken.

Vicente de Paulo Silva, president of the Sao Bernardo Metal Workers Union, tried to stop the clash. The situation was normalized after de Paula Silva was able to get the (Arteve) company to satisfy the workers demands. The police and the striking workers then reached an agreement and the march continued toward the union headquarters. [end recording]

The Sao Paulo Military Police has opened an investigation into the incidents in Diadema. According to the military police, 12 policemen were wounded and 15 police vehicles were damaged. Eight metal workers were taken to the hospital. Three of them who have bullet wounds, are still hospitalized.

(Luis Antonio Fliuri Filho), Sao Paulo security secretary, said that some of the demonstrators were armed and that the police action was aimed at preventing the striking workers from entering the factory to get the workers who wanted to work.

Justice Minister on Strike, Effects on Country

PY0805153889 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 7 May 89 p 12

[Interview by Justice Minister Oscar Dias Correa to O GLOBO correspondents Miriam Moura and Coeli Mendes in Brasilia—date not given]

[Excerpt] O GLOBO: Could the strikes and terrorist attacks, to which you refer as a wave that is in decline, prompt the government to decree a state of defense [Estado de Defesa]?

Correa: I do not see the possibility of decreeing a state of defense. We have to coexist with these waves. If an excessively strong wave should occur, obviously, we would have to take steps to prevent it. Up to now the waves have been normal in a democratic regime of transition and liberalization. As the flow of water returns to normal levels, the waves cease to be rough and violent. There is no reason for decreeing a state of emergency. Nobody has thought of it. At no time did I think of contacting any government authority, or the nation's president to talk about that.

O GLOBO: Will the country remain calm as the November elections approach?

Correa: Yes, as these difficulties subside the country will be calm. Let's suppose that the strike is ruled illegal today, then the employees will have to return to work. If the strike is not ruled illegal, and a percentage of adjustment is granted, the government will have to seek an accommodation. That conflict will then be eliminated for at least 4 months. This strike is a phenomenon that is not serious. It would become serious if it became violent. The only points that worry me are the bombing incidents in Volta Redonda and Recife. The peaceful strike with picket lines that are peaceful and with no violence are normal.

O GLOBO: Which elements might be involved in episodes such as the bombing that destroyed the monument in Volta Redonda?

Correa: We know that under a democracy there are many people interested in destabilizing it. Those people take advantage of the democratic freedom. This happens in

every country in the world. The right blames the left, and the left blames the right. This has been traditional ever since right and left sectors existed, ever since there has been action and reaction. This is something that comes from time immemorial. So, before the facts are investigated, I cannot say if the right or the left is to blame. I can say that these facts are deplorable and that they are being investigated by the Rio de Janeiro Police, assisted by the Federal Police. I expect results will be forthcoming. [passage omitted]

Colombia

'Arafat Envoy Meets Government Officials
PA0505210989 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish
27 Apr 89 p 9

[Text] The PLO hopes to open an embassy in Colombia and use it as a foothold for its relations with Latin America. The "Palestinian State" received the support of 104 countries at the United Nations last December.

The Palestinian State has to date been recognized by 97 of the 104 countries.

However, not a single one of these 97 countries is an EEC member. Cuba and Nicaragua are the only Latin American countries that have offered their support.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi is paying a visit to Colombia in response to an invitation by the Chamber of Representatives. Qaddumi met early yesterday morning with high-ranking Colombian officials, including Bogota Mayor Andres Pastrana Arango and Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes.

The mayor of Bogota presented the Palestinian foreign minister with the keys to the city. On his part, Minister Londono held talks with the Palestinian foreign minister to discuss the possibility of officially recognizing the Palestinian State and permitting the establishment of an embassy in Colombian territory. A Palestinian embassy would become a PLO center in America due to its strategic location.

Shortly before the meeting, the Colombian foreign minister said that the Colombian position on Palestine is that, like all people in the world, Palestinians have a right to have a place where they can build their nation.

However, the Colombian foreign minister also referred to the conflict with Israel, stating that this position "must in any case be based on respect for the rights of other states as well as respect for the right to have secure and stable borders."

The Palestinians initiated talks with the Colombian Government because the country is a member of the UN Security Council.

Foreign Minister Qaddumi, Yassir 'Arafat's assistant and head of the PLO Political Department, arrived at the San Carlos Palace amid tight security measures to hold a 90-minute meeting with Londono.

Foreign Minister Qaddumi refused to talk about possible negotiations with Israel.

The issue remains taboo even during a PLO visit to Colombia.

EPL Accepts President Barco's Peace Plan
PA0505191689 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1
in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] The EPL [Popular Liberation Army] has announced in a document released to journalists in Bucaramanga that it has decided to accept the Barco administration's peace proposal. The document is signed by EPL Commander Francisco Caraballo and confirms the EPL's decision to maintain a cease-fire—a decision reported by this news program earlier this week.

Paraguay

Electoral Board Releases Final Election Results
PY0605200489 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
6 May 89 p 9

[Text] The Central Electoral Board has released the final results of the 1 May presidential election.

According to the data, 1,180,138 people out of a total of 2,226,061 registered voters nationwide actually voted. The data reveal that only 53 percent of the electorate participated in the election. Absenteeism totaled 47 percent.

A total of 878,000 people voted for the Colorado Party presidential candidate, while 830,226 people voted for the Colorado Party candidates for the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

A total of 237,892 people for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) presidential candidate, while 226,699 people voted for PLRA candidates for Congress.

The Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF) obtained 10,907 votes for its presidential candidate and 23,629 votes for its congressional candidates.

A total of 12,513 people voted for the PLR [Radical Liberal Party] presidential candidate, while 12,748 people voted for the PLR candidates for Congress.

These parties won most of the votes and had candidates elected to Congress. The election also showed that the traditional Liberal and Radical Liberal parties lack popular support.

Following is the distribution of seats in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies:

In the Senate the Colorado Party obtained 24 Seats, the PLRA 11 seats, and the PRF 1 seat.

In the Chamber of Deputies the Colorado Party obtained 48 seats, the PLRA 21 seats, the PRF 2 seats, and the PLR 1 seat.

In the Senate the Colorado Party has 14 alternate members and the PLRA 7 alternate members, while in the Chamber of Deputies the Colorado Party has 28 alternate members, the PLRA 13 alternate members, and the PRF 1 alternate member.

The Liberal Party, Christian Democratic Party, United Radical Liberal Party, and Humanist Party did not obtain any seats in either chamber of Congress.

Police Chief Summons Radio Nanduti Director
PY0805175089 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
6 May 89 p 44

[Text] Radio Nanduti Director Humberto Rubin was summoned yesterday afternoon by Police Chief General Francisco Sanchez to talk about complaints aired through his radio station by police personnel who are dissatisfied with the 30-percent salary increase granted to them last Thursday.

Asked about the topic of his talk with the Police Chief, Rubin answered "He did not mention anything special to me. We only talked about the police strike."

Rubin said that "General Sanchez explained the discipline that police personnel must maintain if they wish to make complaints; I told him that this matter was of no concern to me, that I would air any responsibly presented complaint because, although I did not air the name of those making the complaints, I had their names and had checked their identities."

He added that when Gen Sanchez told him that he, Sanchez, was responsible for the police, "I replied that I am the owner of my radio station, I will do as I see fit, and Sanchez would not forbid me to air what I thought was appropriate."

Rubin noted that many policemen had come to his radio to express their discontent with their salaries. He added: "Many policemen came to Radio Nanduti to voice their complaint."

Finally, Rubin was asked if the Chief of Police had tried "to make you toe the line," and he said: "No..., and if he had tried, I would not have allowed him."

Policemen Talk to Minister, Strike Lifted
PY0805144689 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
7 May 89 pp 46-47

[Text] At 2100 last night, some 150 policemen ended a demonstration they began at 0800 outside the National Congress Building, in demand of better salaries. The strikers, most of them noncommissioned officers, told Police Chief Brigadier General Francisco Sanchez that the salaries they are earning are not sufficient for a dignified lifestyle. By mid-morning, representatives of the striking group had met with some congressmen who promised to look into their demands. The group demanded quick solutions. They decided to remain in the square outside the Congress building until they received a favorable solution to their petitions from the appropriate decision-making authorities. At approximately 2100, Interior Minister Division General Orlando Machuca Vargas arrived. After talking with the policemen the strike was lifted.

Last night, the interior minister promised positive solutions to the demands of the striking policemen. After talking with the strikers who gathered around a bonfire in front of the Congress building, the minister told the policemen that the government will give a solution to their demands over the next few days. He added, however, that he will not accept any type of pressure.

The policemen's strike focused mainly on the insufficient 30-percent increase decreed by the government, and they stressed their desire of obtaining the same 70 percent increase that has been granted to members of the Armed Forces. The interior minister did not specify the size of the increase, but his promise was sufficient for the policemen to lift their strike.

Iranian Citizen Reportedly Detained by Police
PY0805164289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
6 May 89 p 5

[Excerpts] An Iranian citizen is reportedly being held in custody at the police headquarters. His identity has not been revealed for procedural reasons. The Iranian citizen was detained a few days ago when he crossed the Paraguayan border. He is reportedly linked to the group of Ukrainians who tried to smuggle weapons into the country. The other foreigners are being interrogated in police and military units in Asuncion. [passage omitted]

According to a confidential source, more people reportedly involved with the terrorist plan prepared by the foreigners could be arrested within the next few hours. The police are reportedly investigating the identification of the leader of the group that prepared the purchase of the U.S. weapons, our source stated. Paraguayan security authorities are alert in view of the presence of these extremely dangerous foreigners.

Peru

Garcia Accepts Resignation of Cabinet 8 May
*PY0805171489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1658 GMT
8 May 89*

[Text] Lima, 8 May (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia today accepted the resignation of the cabinet, which is headed by Prime Minister Armando Villanueva.

In a brief remark to newsmen upon leaving Government Palace, the outgoing prime minister said he had tendered President Garcia "his irrevocable resignation, which has been accepted."

The resignation of the prime minister includes that of the entire cabinet.

Names New Prime Minister
*PY0805190389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1800 GMT 8 May 89*

[Excerpts] Senator Luis Alberto Sanchez has been designated new president of the Council of Ministers. This was reported by President Alan Garcia on arriving at Government Palace after paying homage in Congress to late APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] Deputy Pablo Li Ormeno.

[Begin Alan Garcia recording] I think it is a barbarous crime which we must repudiate and against which we must all fight. [passage omitted]

We need to put all police forces in the struggle against terrorism. We can no longer scatter our efforts and keep some sectors idle. I have seen police agents working as drivers, some of them playing the roles of great personalities, of chiefs. I have seen many policemen doing administrative work. We are paying those people and we have trained them to fight against our main enemy—terrorism.

I want to tell you that the president of the Council of Ministers, and with him all members of the ministerial cabinet, have presented their resignations. Prime Minister Armando Villanueva feels that a political renewal is necessary to give an opportunity to the democratic sectors to participate more actively in the struggle against subversion. The murder of another congressman, has led the ministers to present their resignations.

This political renewal must lead all Peruvians to join efforts. We must forget our electoral confrontations and adversities for a while and understand that the struggle against terrorism is more important than the elections. We must understand that we are at war against terrorism, that we are at war against drug trafficking, and that this war represents a cost of thousands of millions of intis, dozens of millions of dollars. We must make this tremendous effort to end subversion once and for all. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Garcia Labels State of Siege 'Inadvisable'
*PY0905031289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 9 May 89*

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia has confirmed the resignation of Prime Minister Armando Villanueva while highlighting his loyalty and firmness in facing and overcoming the problems he had to face. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] Is the implementation of extreme measures like a state of siege being considered, as indicated by certain sectors?

[Garcia] I believe that a state of siege is not advisable at this time, because we are starting an electoral process.

I also believe that the police, Armed Forces, and public institutions must understand that we are at war with terrorism. By using the word war I do not mean that we recognize belligerent parties. It is a war against terrorism, and terrorism is a common crime. It is the same as the war against drug trafficking.

This means that no time can be lost, nor can we allow men and equipment to be sidetracked for other things. Either we take the plunge or we will allow this crime to prosper in our country. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Garcia on INE 'Manipulation,' Brazil Ties
*PY0605161689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 6 May 89*

[Statement by President Alan Garcia; date, place not given—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...analyze three major issues, beginning with the most important one. The first one deals with the 48-percent inflation rate figure released by the National Statistics Institute, INE.

Since January I have kept silent on a subject about which I was concerned. In fact, other institutions have released inflation figures that were lower than the INE figures. I have kept silent because I believe that when a president has set in motion an economic program, he should not mention inflation figures.

Yet now I would like to say that the truth must be told, no matter how serious. The country lives under a high inflation rate. I am not concerned about the figures themselves, but about their accuracy. I cannot tolerate injustice and manipulation. I don't think it is either just or correct to manipulate figures. I can now tell the country that I believe that it is greatly unfair to release an inflation rate that is some percentage points higher than the real figure due to inefficiency or political manipulation. The only result of this fabricated, excessive figure can be the economy's destruction.

The objective may be to destroy the government and Alan Garcia, but it is not necessary to destroy the entire country.

The manipulation at the INE is very serious for all Peruvians. You will recall that in January, for the first time in 4 years, Apoyo, which is a private opposition institution, reported an inflation rate that was lower than the figure released by INE. The same thing happened in the following months.

In April, Apoyo reported an inflation rate of 34 percent, while INE's reported rate was 48 percent.

I have talked to independent professionals who are not members of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]. They confirmed that there has been manipulation and that it is possible to find out whether this manipulation was caused by inefficiency or for political purposes.

I would like to stress the opinion of Dr Graciela Fernandez Vacca, an internationally known professional who is respected by all governments. You all know her. I invite you to talk with her. She is independent and has no links with the government. She is respected by all parties, both at home and abroad. I invite you to ask her for a clarification on the subject and on the technical reasons that support my charge.

I would like to say that this month the INE reported a 48-percent inflation rate. We wonder how the inflation rate can be that high with the reduction of economic activities. Production has decreased. The country is making a big effort by reducing salaries, wages, and demand. Such a high inflation rate is totally unjustified. That was my opinion. Independent professionals have now explained how the figures are being manipulated.

For example, INE has reported that food and beverage prices, which account for more than 50 percent of the price of the average family basket, have grown by only 22 percent. An average family spends more than 50 percent of its budget on food and beverages. Furniture, appliances, and house maintenance spending has increased by 15 percent. Transportation and communication prices increased by 23 percent. This means that 90 percent of all spending increased between 20 and 25 percent.

Yet according to INE, 6 percent of spending—entertainment and books—increased by 174 percent. This means that an item that accounts for only 6 percent of the family basket price has made the price of the entire basket rise by 48 percent. This is absurd. It is a political maneuver.

In addition, the method for calculating inflation was recently modified, making it absurd. In the past, it was believed that people spent 2 percent of their budget on rice. Now that we are in a difficult situation, the people have increased their consumption of rice, because of the

increase in flour prices. The new method, however, estimates that rice consumption has dropped and now accounts for only 1 percent of all spending.

Bread and cake are now considered more important for a family diet.

The INE does not even consider the consumption of hake, scad, and mackerel, thousands of tons of which, as you all know, have been sold on the Lima market in the past 2 months.

This is obviously the result of manipulation or, if we want to use an euphemism, professional inefficiency.

No wonder such a figure has been released. A great effort has been made. The Peruvian people have made a great effort by agreeing to the reduction of the purchasing power of their salaries. Despite all this, however, the inflation rate has reportedly not decreased.

I say that I must agree with whatever inflation rate has been correctly calculated. Yet I cannot agree to manipulation, because they are trying to destroy the entire nation in their effort to destroy Alan Garcia. And I cannot tolerate that.

I invite you to talk with independent professionals who have nothing to do with the ruling party to clarify this explanation and to see how an entire society can be destroyed by manipulating a couple of figures at an office like the INE.

The second issue which I would like to address is this very brief visit that I will pay to Manaus, where I will meet with the Brazilian, Venezuelan, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Bolivian, Guyanese, and Surinamese presidents.

The objective of the meeting is to agree on the way in which we will work on the Amazonian region, which is Latin America's greatest wealth. As you know, 60 percent of Peruvian territory belongs to the Amazonian region. Almost 50 percent of all Latin American territory lies within the Amazonian region.

It so happens that the world's leading industrialized nations have now posed demands and have conditioned their credits and their technological support, demanding that we Latin Americans leave the Amazonian region untouched. They claim that every tree that is cut down reduces the quantity of the earth's oxygen and ozone later.

Our reply is to ask why we Latin American countries should pay the price of the development they have achieved over the past few decades. It is they who own 90 percent of the car and home airconditioners that release freon, which destroys the ozone layer. It is they who own the largest number of refrigerators and carbon dioxide plants. It is they who have achieved development throughout centuries, burning their own forests.

And now that there is an environmental problem, we cannot touch this Latin American wealth to compensate for the big development gap between the industrialized world and us.

Our opinion is that we are responsible for sovereignly and reasonably using the Amazonian region without impositions or tutelage. We believe that environmental preservation is a universal problem involving mankind. We believe that we all should preserve the environment on the basis of a fair distribution of responsibilities, which rich countries have refused to accept.

This is the objective of the Manaus meeting, which is very important for Latin America's future. World Bank credits are now being conditioned so that they are available only to the countries following their advice in the Amazonian region. If we want to develop Amazonian oil or gas resources, they will say that this will require the destruction of forests and that therefore they will give neither credits nor technology. This is unacceptable.

We cannot pay for their development and for the environmental disorder generated by that development.

After the Manaus meeting, which will last only 1 day, I will go to Brasilia with Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

As you know, one of the major Peruvian political objectives should be the promotion of relations with Brazil. We need Brazil, which is an industrial and agricultural power. Brazil has a large consumer market of 140 million for Peruvian products.

Brazil, in turn, needs us, because its Amazonian region is closer to Peru than to the Brazilian capital and to the main Brazilian cities. Peru and Brazil make up the heart of the continent. Consequently, Peru should strengthen its ties with Brazil. This is one of the concrete objectives of my visit.

Regarding our international policy, Brazil is as important as the Pacific Ocean basin, which leads to Japan and the ROK. We have unlimited possibilities with Brazil. Both Peru and Brazil are interested in the development of the Camisea gas deposits for the production of condensed oil and fuel. Peru is very interested in Brazil's sophisticated technology, which we used in Charcani, Arequipa, in (Chavimochic), in La Libertad, in the largest irrigation project in our country.

We also need Brazilian cooperation for the expansion of the Cerro Verde project in Arequipa, which will promote our exports.

We will also analyze highway integration. The Madre de Dios department may have Peru's brightest future because of its proximity to the big Brazilian Amazonian cities and because of its gold, cattle, and timber resources.

We need to give Brazil access to the Pacific through Madre de Dios, from Inapari to Puerto Maldonado and Cusco. Brazil is also interested in this project and we have to consider it together.

My proposal to Brazil will always be that whatever is invested in Peru will be essential for the joint development of the two countries.

Those are the three issues: First, I am ready to admit the truth and to be criticized on the government's mistakes or excesses. But we cannot tolerate injustice. The people are aware of the situation. We cannot tolerate injustice and manipulation. Second, the significance of the Manaus meeting for the fate of Latin America's greatest wealth: the Amazonian region. Third, my 24-hour presence in Brasilia to address political and economic ties with President Jose Sarney. Thank you very much.

Deputy's Murder Prompts Garcia's Early Return
PY0705204389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1905 GMT
7 May 89

[Text] Lima, 7 Apr [date as received] (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia returned today to Lima after canceling the trip he was to make today to Brasilia. Garcia's return to Lima was prompted by the murder of an APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] deputy, the second congressman to die in Peru in 9 days.

Yesterday, Garcia attended a meeting with presidents of Amazon Pact countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela) in Manaus, capital of the Brazilian Amazonas State.

Today in Brasilia Garcia was scheduled to sign several bilateral cooperation agreements with his Brazilian counterpart, Jose Sarney.

Upon disembarking at the military zone of Lima Airport without receiving military honors and without making remarks to the press, Garcia went directly to the funeral of Deputy Pablo Li Ormeno, who was shot dead last night in the popular suburb of Villa el Salvador.

Li Ormeno (who was 47 years old) was murdered 9 days after the death of United Left deputy Eriberto Arroyo Mio (45 years old), who was the first congressman murdered in the wave of political violence that has claimed more than 13,000 lives over a period of 9 years.

The attack against Li Ormeno coincided with the APRA internal election, which nominated its general secretary Luis Alva Castro as its presidential candidate; and with the 65th anniversary of APRA's foundation.

'Thousands' Detained in Case

PY0805164089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2232 GMT
7 May 89

[Excerpts] Lima, 7 May (EFE)—The Peruvian police have detained more than 4,000 people in Lima, including suspects and those not carrying personal identification cards, in operations to detain the murderers of ruling party Deputy Pablo Li Ormeno, who was murdered yesterday.

A communique released by the National Police General Directorate reported today that 4,440 people were detained and 4,726 vehicles were checked.

According to the note, dragnet operations were carried out in several areas of Lima, especially in the southern zone, where the Villa el Salvador district of Lima is located. Li Ormeno, a militant of the ruling APRA Party, was murdered in this district. [passage omitted]

After the murder of United Left Deputy Arroyo Mio, the Peruvian police announced that 4,000 suspects were detained and 235 vehicles were confiscated as part of the investigation. That crime has not yet been solved.

Venezuela

Perez Cited on Panamanian, Bolivian Elections

PA0805190889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1805 GMT
8 May 89

[Text] Caracas, 8 May (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today in Caracas that he hopes the next Panamanian president will be the candidate who "really" received the majority of votes in yesterday's presidential elections.

Perez inaugurated the 19th Conference of Continental Air Force Commanders, which will last until 13 May. Air Force commanders from Latin American countries, the United States, and Canada are participating in the event.

The Venezuelan president made his statement after inaugurating the conference. He said he could not offer his opinion yet because he does not have specific information on the results of the Panamanian elections.

However, he stressed that "we hope that the predictions about alleged irregularities are not true, and that the one who received the majority of votes will win."

Perez said he hopes the Panamanian election process was clean both during the voting and vote-counting process and that the will of the majority is respected.

Regarding the Bolivian elections, Perez said a second round of elections is expected because none of the candidates received the required number of votes.

Perez said that whoever wins the second round of the Bolivian elections will have the support of the Venezuelan Government and people.

Defense Minister Explains U.S. Airplanes

PA0805191089 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Defense Minister Italo del Valle Alliegro says there is no secret regarding the activities of the U.S. airplanes at Tumeremo Air Force Base. Del Valle said that the exchange of experience is an Armed Forces practice and that the exercises carried out at Tumeremo were immediately reported by Bolivar State's press. Del Valle explained that the airplanes are part of a technological exchange program that Venezuela cannot avoid because it is an OAS and Inter-American Defense Board member, and there are many agreements on the exchange of this type of experience. He said the exercises are routine for the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

[Begin Del Valle recording] We carry out similar activities with all countries. We participated in the Unitas and Canaima exercises. All in all we have participated in innumerable exercises carried out by the Air Force, Navy, Armed Forces of Cooperation, and the Army. These exercises are always authorized beforehand by the president. [end recording]

Defense Minister del Valle also announced that within the next 24 hours the Colombian authorities will turn over Venezuelan Calixto Alfonso Gonzalez, who, claiming to be a deserter from the 19 April Movement, surrendered at the El Tacuyo military base in Colombia's Cauca Department.

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